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For Immediate Release

August 3, 2014

Waves of Support at the Junior Livestock Auction

San Jose, CA – Hundreds of students from around the county felt waves of support from buyers during the junior livestock auction at the 70th Santa Clara County Fair. These buyers increased the value of winning bids by offering to add more dollars or “add-ons” than the fair has ever seen.

Add-ons consist of additional dollars that buyers “add-on” to the final sale price of an animal. A student might get \$6 per pound on their market lamb for example, but other buyers can turn that into \$8, \$10 or more to raise the final price. “More add-ons are the result of more buyer participation this year and that is great news,” said Sarah Pence, the Santa Clara County Fair Manager.

The students involved in the livestock auction have spend hundreds of hours raising, feeding and preparing for the week-long livestock show and Sunday’s auction. Many of the students save the profits from their livestock projects to help pay for a college education.

“Everything I’ve done in livestock has been for college,” said Julianna Lydon, a senior from El Sereno 4-H who received \$90 per pound for her 33 pound turkey. “Over the years I have been saving up for tuition and other college expenses. I plan on attending Loyola University in New Orleans.”

Formally named the Lonnie Toensfeldt Memorial Junior Livestock Auction, the auction sold 223 head of livestock and raised over \$320,000, an exponential increase from last year. This year the top prices also included \$23 per pound on a market hog, and \$25 per pound on a market goat.

The Santa Clara County Fair is held the first weekend in August and information on this Santa Clara County tradition is available online at thefair.org

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