



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **FUN FACTS FROM THE 2018 BIG FRESNO FAIR**

**Fresno, CA....October 14, 2018...**The gates have closed on another Big Fresno Fair, the largest annual event in the Central Valley! This year's 12 day event welcomed people throughout the Valley and beyond, featured hundreds of vendors and exhibitors, plus a variety of attractions and entertainment! The following information has been prepared as of Sunday, October 14, and includes a snapshot of interesting and unique facts and statistics from the 2018 Big Fresno Fair.

The Big Fresno Fair hired 675 employees for the months of September and October; 215 of which were new Fair employees. NOTE: This does not include the local employees hired by our carnival provider, Butler Amusements; our janitorial department (Twice as Nice Janitorial); or the individual food vendors.

#### **Big Fresno Fair Social Media**

- 28,838,979: The total reach from the Fair's Facebook, Twitter and Instagram during the 12 days of the 2017 Big Fresno Fair
- The Big Fresno Fair has 78,174 fans on Facebook
- The Big Fresno Fair has 10,800 followers on Twitter
- The Big Fresno Fair has 18,072 followers on Instagram
- The Big Fresno Fair has 1,064 followers on Snapchat

#### **Free Entertainment**

- 1,060 hours of FREE entertainment were provided during the 2018 Fair.

#### **Nerveless Nocks Thrill Show**

- 55 MPH is the fastest speed they got to in the Globe of Fear!
- Nerveless Nocks are 9<sup>th</sup> generation stunt performers originally from Switzerland, established in 1840.
- Nerveless Nocks performed on the Ed Sullivan Show in 1964 on the same episode as the Beatles!

#### **Livestock Pavilion**

- 2,500 animals were exhibited at The Big Fresno Fair
- 853 animals were put up for auction at the two 2018 Jr. Livestock Auctions (10/6 and 10/13) and raised \$945,000 with more money still coming in.
- 50 animals won Champion Awards.
- 40 clubs participated Livestock Pavilion

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### **Ag Ventureland**

- 57 pregnant sheep (ewes) were brought to the 2018 Big Fresno Fair
- 37 lambs were born on-site
- 250 gallons of milk were collected at the Cow Palace Milking Demonstrations
- 62 baby animals were on display.

### **The Fair Education Program**

This annual program draws students, teachers and parents from Fresno County Elementary School classrooms who take part in educational tours of the Fair. Young participants visit each exhibit building and they are taught about the rich agricultural history of The Big Fresno Fair while using an interactive and educational guide and having fun all at the same time.

- A total of 30,375 Fresno County parents, teachers and students toured the Fair on four different days this year as part of the Fair Education Program. This is the 26<sup>th</sup> year of the Program.
- Of that total, 22,000 were students who took part in an educational and fun field trip – 7,500 parents/chaperones and 875 teachers!

### **Wells Fargo Agriculture Building**

- 250 pounds was how much the biggest pumpkin on display weighed!
- 250 different varieties of grapes were judged.
- 14 judged were utilized in the Wells Fargo Agriculture Building this year.
- 27,720 boxes of Sun-Maid Raisins were handed out.
- 35 pumpkins were carved into masterpieces by Russ Leno.

### **Gem and Mineral Exhibit**

- 850 pounds of polished rocks were handed out to children during the Fair Education Program.
- 50 bags of polished rocks and 100 pendants were taken to Valley Children's Hospital during the Fair's annual visit and were given to patients being treated there.
- \$6,500 in scholarships was awarded to Fresno State and Fresno City College geology students.
- Fairgoers favorite thing in the building? The case with California's Heritage Official State Emblems (Saber Tooth Cat) and the case with the Best of Show ribbon with geodes in it.

### **The Greenhouse**

- 2,158 floriculture exhibits were on display.
- 887 Blue Ribbons were awarded.
- 204 different types of roses were on display; that's double last year's number!
- 790 different varieties of plants and flowers were on display.
- The American Orchid Society recognized two orchids for national awards, bringing the total national awards given at The Big Fresno Fair to 10 since 2000.
- Every year, Flower Arrangers are given 48 new themes to use as inspiration during the four arrangements days at the Fair.



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### **All-Alaskan Pig Races**

- 48 All-Alaskan Pig races were run.
- The pigs ran a total of 1.6 miles each.

### **Save Mart Wine Garden**

- More than 800 bottles of wine were sold.
- 3,000 Wild Vines smoothies were purchased.

### **Country Fair Cinnamon Rolls**

- 42,000 lbs. of flour were used.
- 17,100 lbs. of cinnamon and sugar were used.
- 4,500 lbs. of cream cheese were used.
- 7,200 lbs. of butter were used.

### **NEW Vendor Fat Franky's Funnel Cake**

- 600 lbs. of sugar used
- 4,500 lbs. of dough used
- 6,360 funnel cakes were sold at the Fair.

### **NEW Jerky Hut**

- Whiskey BBQ was the most popular flavor
- Sweet & Spicy was the 2<sup>nd</sup> favorite.

### **NEW Dutch Bros**

- 250 lbs. of coffee were used during the Fair
- 550+ gallons of milk were used

### **Milo's Double-Decker Corn Dogs**

- 6,000 lbs. of batter was used
- 1,200 regular corn dogs were sold
- 5,950 lbs. of corn dogs were consumed from their booth!
- 21,000 lbs. of potatoes used for curly fries

### **Kettlecorn (MKM Concessions)**

- 5,000 lbs. of kettle corn was sold.
- Fruit Loop was the most popular flavor; but regular Kettle Korn is by far the most ordered
- 100,000 lbs. of sugar were used.

### **Pepe's Mariscos**



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- 1,200 lbs. of shrimp used for the ceviche
- 1,500 lbs. of shrimp used for the shrimp cocktail
- 1,900 lbs. of carne asada was used
- 1,250 limes were used
- 720 lbs. of cheese was used
- 1,900 agua frescas were sold
- 60 lbs. of salsa was used (and consumed!)

### **Corn Dogs**

- 45,030 regular corn dogs were sold at the Fair from all the stands.

### **Churro Zone**

- 2,000 churros were sold during the Fair.
- 1,000 with filling; caramel was the most popular filling flavor.
- 750 Red Velvet Churros were sold; a very popular Fair item.

### **Indian Fry Bread**

- 3,000 Indian tacos were sold.
- 3,000 lbs. of bread were used during the Fair.
- 100 Vegetarian Tofu Corn Dogs were sold.

### **Chicken Charlie's**

- 1,000 NEW Deep-Fried Filet Mignon were sold.
- 1,000 Chicken Ramen and Shrimp Ramen burritos were sold
- 1,125 pineapples were used for the Chicken and Shrimp Pineapple Rice Bowls.
- 1,000 orders of Frog Legs were sold
- 1,050 Krispy Kreme Triple Cheeseburgers

### **Wellmon Concessions**

- 450 Angry Chicken Sandwiches were sold.
- Hot Pastrami Sandwich was the most popular item
- 400 lbs. of sweet pork was used for the Dirty Fries and the Pork Sandwiches
- 400 Blue Buffalo Chicken Fries were sold

### **Sharky's Fish Fry**

- 500 Lobster Corn Dogs were sold
- 900 lbs. of Lobster meat was used for the fries!
- Lobster Fries was the most popular food item

### **Fabe's Gelato**



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- 7,000 scoops of gelato were served.
- 1,000 waffle cones were served
- 2,800 churros were sold
- Cinnamon & Sugar was the most popular churro
- 1,400 churro sandwiches were sold
- 5,000 milkshakes were sold
- Oreo was the most popular milkshake
- 720 milkshakes were sold on Saturday, 10/13 – a record day!

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Merrill Award Winner

