

No Animal Left Behind—Fair Project

By Harrison Hargleroad, Santa Rosa Valley

Every year on the last night of the Ventura County Fair, most of the animals are loaded into large trucks and taken to various feedlots or directly to a butcher to be processed for consumption. However many animals are left overnight and are not loaded onto the trucks. These animals are marked for "live pickup", meaning that the owners intend to pick those animals up directly from the fairgrounds however they wish, but must pick them up by 10 AM the following Monday morning.

Harrison Hargleroad of Santa Rosa Valley 4-H is among those who have walked the barn aisles on those lonely Monday mornings after the Fair and heard the remaining animals crying for food and attention. But in the time leading up to the Fair of 2013, Harrison made plans for food and water to be supplied overnight and in the morning for those remaining animals, and to make sure that they



were picked up on time. Harrison created the plan, which was approved as the "No Animal Left Behind" Emerald Star Project.

The project turned out to be a huge success, though it didn't go exactly as planned. The first problem was that Harrison was unable to attain the list of names



and numbers of the people who had to pick up animals. In fact, the Fair office didn't even know exactly who any animal was suppose to be picked up by. Though he could not call the owners to ensure they picked up their animals on time, he still accomplished his main goal: to provide food and water. He arrived at the Fairgrounds around 5:30 that Monday morning to find 30+ hungry animals. He spent the next five hours feeding and watering around 10 cows, calves, and heifers, 17 pigs, 3 goats, and 5 lambs. Everything went smoothly, even though 2 of the bags of grain that had been left overnight were missing. The animals were full and content, and the fair staff was grateful to learn that they would not be given migraines by the hungry animals calling for food. Harrison says that his favorite part was learning exactly how smart pigs are, when he swiftly taught them how to drink from water bottles.

For more information on the Emerald Star program, visit http://ceventura.ucanr.edu/Youth_Development/4-H/Member_Opportunities/Emerald_Star_Project/