

State of California

California Exposition & State Fair
1600 Exposition Boulevard
Sacramento, CA 95815
Tel: (916) 263-3010
Fax: (916) 263-7903

MEMORANDUM

Date: March 15, 2018

To: Board of Directors
California Exposition & State Fair

Via: Rick K. Pickering, Chief Executive Officer

From: Jay Carlson, AG Program Director

Subject: Recommendation for Approval of 2018 Ag Progress Award

BACKGROUND

The California State Fair annually recognizes the accomplishments and service of key individuals and organizations through a series of prestigious awards. One such recognition is the Ag Progress Award, and the recipient will be publically recognized and honored at the Friends of the California State Fair Gala on Thursday, June 21, 2018.

Included here is the process for selection of this award and background of 2018 award honoree that is being recommended.

AWARDS SUMMARY

Ag Progress Award

The Ag Progress Award is given to an individual, company, or organization that has demonstrated substantial contributions to the California State Fair in the area of agriculture program development.

Dr. Marit Arana is respectfully recommended as the 2018 Ag Progress Award honoree.

Dr. Marit Arana, Ph.D., P.A.S., has been an animal nutritionist for A.L. Gilbert Co. since 2003. She graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 1986 with a B.S. in Animal Science. Went on to attend CSU, Fresno and in 1989 earned a Master's Degree in Agriculture & Animal Science, followed by a PhD in Animal Nutrition from the University of Arizona in 1994.

Marit is viewed as the Godmother of Champion Challenge, the California State Fair's Learning Laboratory. Marit was instrumental in the planning, development and

implementation of this unique award winning program. She began her very active support of the California State Fair as the Dairy Cattle Superintendent in 1995. Marit has always advocated on behalf of all agriculture at the State Fair including her consistent support of the Sale of Champions, the Farm, the Gala, the Youth Scholarship Program and the Agricultural Advisory Council. Marit does not utilize the word “NO”; it is not in her vocabulary. She will instead develop a way to make “YES” happen.

Prior to her career at A.L. Gilbert she served as the Area Dairy Advisor, University of California Cooperative Extension from 1995 to 2003. She has been a member of the CDFA Feed Inspection Advisory Board since 2013; San Joaquin Chapter President and member of the California Women for Agriculture, past president and member of the California Chapter of the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists (ARPAS). She’s been a member of the California State Fair Agriculture Advisory Council since 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

California State Fair Staff respectfully recommends that the Board approve the following:

- I. Honor Dr. **Marit Arana** as the 2018 Ag Progress Award recipient.