

Email via 4HOnline sent June 19, 2020

Hello Tuscarawas County 4-H,

As many of you are aware, the Tuscarawas County Agricultural Society (Senior Fair Board) voted Tuesday night to hold a Jr. Fair only for 2020. The Senior Fair Board released this statement on their Facebook page: "UPDATE: The 170th Annual Tuscarawas County fair will be held in September for exhibitors with Junior Fair projects only. At a meeting Tuesday night, Tuscarawas County Agricultural Society board members heard from OSU Extension officials, current vendors, and Tuscarawas County health department in order to gain input on the future of the fair. The health department advised that although exact health guidelines for September are unknown, the safest way to carry out a fair while maintaining the health of our community is to eliminate activities that encourage large crowds to the fair grounds. After lengthy deliberation and discussion, it was decided to prioritize the Junior Fair projects to support the future of agriculture based on the mission of TCAS. Grandstand events, Senior Fair contests, rides, games, vendors, and most concessionaire's will not be permitted. A committee has been created to devise a plan allowing all 4-H and FFA members to safely show their animal projects under a revised schedule. Details will be shared on the website and Facebook page in the coming months as plans develop with information for attendees, participants, buyers, and businesses sponsors. Thank you to everyone who provided resources and input on this very difficult decision, we value your service."

I'm sure this decision kept many of our Board members up late at night nor was it a particularly easy decision to make. Please be kind and considerate in your words and actions regarding your reaction to this decision. Like everything else this year, our Jr. Fair will look and feel different. To echo thoughts from my Ross County counterpart, "dig deep and find ways to model how to handle this disappointment and then gather your inner gumption and model positivity. We will need your help in making the most of this." We value our entire fair community and we hope you do too.

Extension and Jr. Fair staff will be working with the Senior Fair Board to revise the Jr. Fair schedule while keeping with state and local operating procedures. **Details will be released after the schedule and plan has officially been voted on by the Senior Fair Board.**

4-H Project Judging

In the meantime, we have begun to work with specie judging representatives to put together our virtual livestock skillathons and we have also begun to work on putting together our various grids in Flipgrid for 4-H miscellaneous projects. As outlined in last



week's update email, our plan is to have virtual judging ready to be launched on Monday, July 13 and it will close on Friday, July 31. This will give 4-H members nearly a three week window to complete their judging requirements at their convenience. In case you missed last week's weekly email, below is the information on what judging will look like:

General Outline:

There will be no face-to-face project judging this year. There will also be no premiums based off of judging scores from the Senior Fair Board due to the loss of revenue from the spring and summer.

Miscellaneous Projects:

Even though there is no state level project judging this year, we would still like to give our 4-H members the opportunity to judge for county placings like we normally do. To keep things fair and allow the same judge to judge everyone in the same category, we will be utilizing a platform called Flipgrid. Many schools use this system as well as other counties and we have received positive feedback. Members taking miscellaneous projects will record a video clip of themselves discussing their projects, explaining the activities they completed, showing off their displays and going through their project books that will be uploaded to Flipgrid. Videos should be a minimum of three minutes and a maximum of ten minutes. We plan to open our Flipgrid account on July 13 (which would have been the first day of "normal" project judging) and we will close Flipgrid on July 31. This will give members nearly a three week window to complete and upload their videos. Judges will reserve the right to schedule a Zoom interview with members should they wish to ask additional questions when considering their top rankings.

If members are not interested in county placings, they have the option to receive a "completion" mark from one of their advisors. This is an option for Miscellaneous projects ONLY. We will be sending lists to advisors who have members taking miscellaneous projects and if they choose to go this route, advisors may talk with their members through a face-to-face conversation or a Zoom interview. Completion will need to be reported to the Extension Office by mid-August.

Livestock Project Judging (Skillathon)

In order to exhibit at the county fair in September, youth must complete their virtual Skillathon which will be housed on a platform called Qualtrics which is through Ohio State. This is the same system we utilized for Quality Assurance registration. Like as Miscellaneous judging, we will open up Qualtrics on July 13 and it will close on July 31. Again, this will give members nearly a three week window to complete their judging requirement. Members can complete their judging at any time of the day or night as it will not be with a live judge. Also, we will not be collecting books at this time. For those with market animals or those who receive share checks from the small animal or dairy sales,

you will still need to complete your project record book to be checked over at sale check distribution in November. Virtual Skillathon will look very similar to what the youth complete in-person at Midvale in July, just in a virtual format. We encourage youth to utilize this as an “open-book test” as you must receive a 75% or higher in order to exhibit your animal(s). If you receive less than a 75% and Qualtrics has not closed, you will have the option to complete Skillathon again so please don’t wait until the last day! Again, more information to come as we work through the logistics but we wanted to let you know the general plan.

If a member has decided to drop a project for this year, please email me at heckel.13@osu.edu and we will get that corrected in 4HOnline.

Keep the Lights on at 4-H Camp Piedmont Buckeye Funder Campaign

A huge thank-you goes out to those families, clubs and individuals who donated to our online BuckeyeFunder Campaign for Camp Piedmont. With your help, we raised over \$10,000! I have been asked several times if donations will still be accepted and the answer is YES! The online platform ended last night (6/18/20) but the campaign will still run through August 31. If you would like to send in a check, please make the check out and send it to: Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, Attn: 4-H Camp Needs You Now, 2201 Fred Taylor Dr, Columbus, OH 43210. Write CAMP PIEDMONT in the MEMO.

Virtual Livestock Quality Assurance

If you haven’t completed QA yet and want to sign up for a virtual option, there are still four virtual sessions scheduled. You can complete registration here:

https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Y2dcC3R7CbSgxD

Remember, you only need to complete QA once a year and please only take one registration spot per family. The only projects that do not need to complete QA are dogs and pet rabbit. Horses had their own version with Safety & Ethics. YQCA is still an option for those who wish to complete that version instead. Details can be found here:

<https://tuscarawas.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/4-h-livestock/quality-assurance-qa>

You can still pick up hard copies of the Jr. Fair supplement in the plastic tote right outside the front door of the Extension Office OR you can access it here:

<https://www.tusccountyfairgrounds.com/fair-books.html>

*I continue to receive questions on whether or not we’ll still hold a face-to-face QA at some point. This is still the goal but I don’t know when or what this will look like yet as guidelines seem to change on a weekly basis. I’m thinking August for a face-to-face

session at the fairgrounds but nothing has been set yet.

Public Speaking Contests:

Last week, our 4-H Committee decided to not hold a county public speaking contest this summer due to the cancelation of OSF and state level judging. However, it was announced that those interested in Health and Safety Speaking still have the option to compete virtually in area contests! *Please note that “with the cancelation of the Ohio State Fair, there will not be a state 4-H health and safety speaking contest in 2020. State winners in 2019 are not eligible for competition in 2020 but may resume competition in 2021 at all levels.” As the 4-H professional, I must register any participants with the area contest coordinator. Area contests will be held virtually on July 1 and July 15. Youth may enter either contest. We will post the registration materials and guidelines on our website but if you’re interested, you can email me directly and I’ll get that sent to you. I need to register you at least three business days in advance of the contest in which you want to participate so please let me know ASAP! They will still have skit contests and individual contests.

Have a great weekend and happy Father’s Day to all of the 4-H Dads out there!

Kiersten