

Email via 4HOnline sent March 20, 2020

Dear Tuscarawas County 4-H,

The past week or so has been a huge whirlwind of changes, but one thing I've noticed that hasn't changed is the determination of our 4-H community to remain positive and "make the best better" in any type of situation, even a strange situation like we're experiencing now. As this situation is ever-changing, we will do our absolute best to keep you updated on the most recent developments. This email has a LOT of details; please read through all of it.

Some FAQ's:

When can our clubs start meeting again?

Originally, we were told to have all 4-H clubs and affiliates cancel or re-schedule any events and meetings through the end of March. This has now been extended to April 20. This means the flyers we released last week are no longer accurate.

From now until April 20, we are to cease ALL 4-H programming, including:

4-H committees, including advisory committees, saddle horse, endowment, etc.

Club kick-offs, open houses, etc.

Community service projects

Educational clinics

Events put on by advisory or county committees or clubs

Fundraisers

Social events (egg hunts, square dances)

Teen leader groups



Is the enrollment deadline staying the same?

Yes. As of right now, we are sticking with our annual April 15 enrollment deadline as the majority of our enrollments are done electronically. Only new members (and brand-new advisors) need to have a paper version of their enrollment filled out. Those can be mailed to the Extension Office (419 16th Street SW, New Philadelphia, OH 44663) OR placed in the locked, black drop box right outside of our front door. If you need an electronic version of the new member enrollment form, just let me myself (heckel.13@osu.edu) or Astra (armstrong.133@osu.edu) know and we will send it your way.

What about advisors who haven't completed their annual 1.50 training yet?

Unfortunately, the April 14 date I had set for this training is no longer going to work since we are to hold off on all programming through April 20. In your time of "self-quarantine," you are more than welcome to complete the training online through 4HOnline. Please note that your enrollment must be submitted and "accepted" by our office before you will have access to the training. I still plan to have a face-to-face training for those who would prefer the in-person option but I'm going to wait to schedule this training until we're a little more certain when things can start returning to normal. If you need instructions for accessing the 1.50 training through 4HOnline, let me know! I'm not going to include those steps in this email just to save some people the reading.

What About Livestock Quality Assurance?

Well, we managed to get one face-to-face session done! That's one more than some counties. As we continue to navigate through this ever-changing situation, the Ohio Department of Agriculture has agreed that for 2020 ONLY, the rule stating that QA must be completed 45 days prior to livestock exhibition will be waived and all youth (regardless of age) are permitted to utilize the online YQCA platform to fulfill their QA requirement as we will not be permitted to hold any QA sessions until after April 20.

Our Senior Fair Board has agreed to allow all Tuscarawas youth who wish to complete YQCA for their QA requirement to do so. Should you choose this option, I will be sending out a separate email with the instructions. Once completed, you will be required to bring in a copy of your certificate as proof that you completed the training and you must pick up/sign for a packet of county specific information. YQCA will be the ONLY accepted online version of Quality Assurance. The online courses for PQA & and BQA will not count. The two QA's that were originally scheduled for March have been re-scheduled for Thursday, April 23 (PM) and Saturday, May 16 (AM). Both will be held at the

fairgrounds. The dairy specific QA that was scheduled for Sunday, April 19 will also need to be re-scheduled but we do not have new date yet.

How should hog exhibitors go about purchasing and picking up ear tags for their pigs?

Ear tags will be available when we can resume holding Quality Assurance sessions again. For those planning to attend a later QA session, I would recommend sending in a representative from your club to the Extension office after May 1 to get all of the ear-tags needed for your club.

Will there be any re-scheduled clinics that were going to be a part of Super Sunday or in April?

We don't want to schedule a whole bunch of events that may end up getting postponed or canceled. Instead, I am planning to slowly start working on a video series (later in April when I'm permitted to resume programming!) that can be substituted for some of our face-to-face clinics for just this year. More to come on that topic in the future.

What about livestock registration/tag-in/check-in dates?

At this time, those dates remain the same as do the possession deadlines. Several people have asked if they should go ahead and begin selecting and purchase their project animals. That is entirely up to you and your family.

Can we still order project books?

Extension Publishing, where all of our 4-H publications come from, has also been shut down until the end of March as they are also part of the University. This means book order fulfillment has been halted as well. I still encourage you to work with your club advisors (virtually!) to get your club's book order put together and you can email that to Astra (armstrong.133@osu.edu) OR drop it off in the drop box by the front door of the office. We'll start putting in the book orders as soon as we are permitted to do so again.

Do you have any resources we can use to meet virtually?

Ohio 4-H has posted some nice resources on the Ohio 4-H webpage and created its own "go link" to take you straight there: go.osu.edu/4Hadvisorinfo

There are multiple options for meeting virtually or sending out messages to everyone. There are also some resources for helping families re-enroll themselves in 4HOnline.

Remember, only RETURNERS should complete their own enrollments! That goes for returning advisors, as well! If any club is worried about not getting in your state-required minimum of six meetings, just keep in mind that you don't have to hit six before fair! You have until the end of the calendar year.

What about camp and fair?

We very much hope these exciting events will happen as planned but obviously, we cannot guarantee anything.

I know these next few weeks will be challenging, but we will come out on the other side of this! It's just going to take some patience and perseverance. While I am teleworking and not in the office, I'm still available via email at heckel.13@osu.edu, and we will continue to post updates to our county Facebook pages and our website: <https://tuscarawas.osu.edu>

Yours in 4-H,

Kiersten