Hello T-County 4-H!

This statement was released by the state 4-H office on Monday: “Due to COVID-19 and in alignment with the cancellation of the Ohio State Fair, there will be no 4-H state fair project judging this year. However, we know how important it is to recognize 4-H members for the time and effort in completing their projects. While we are still working on the details, we are excited to announce there will be an Ohio 4-H Project Showcase. All members will be invited to submit a photo of themselves with their 4-H project. These photos will be added to a gallery page on the state 4-H website and we’re working on plans to highlight members in additional ways. More information will be available by June 15.”

Like many of you, we are disappointed but want to be respectful of the tough decisions that our leaders are making. Please watch for more information regarding the Project Showcase. However, to support the continued learning needs of youth livestock and companion animal exhibitors throughout Ohio, Ohio State University Extension and the Department of Animal Sciences are pleased to offer virtual Skillathons this year! These Skillathons will encompass the same educational materials, by species, that would typically be evaluated at the Ohio State Fair. More information will be forthcoming but you can check out the tentative dates for these virtual Skillathons on the Ohio State: 4-H Animal Sciences Facebook page.

We’re having good conversation with our partners on the Senior Fair Board to problem-solve and continue to adapt plans, as needed. Again, the hope and intention is to have the 170th Annual Tuscarawas County Fair in September. The Fair Board continues to monitor the CDC guidelines and are working closely with the Tuscarawas County Health Department. They are committed to providing the best experience we can in an environment that puts the health and safety of our community first. Like many of you, we have had to adapt and plan for various situations over the past several months and will continue to adapt as needed. We aim to provide a fun-filled, family-friendly event where our 4-H and FFA members can showcase their hard work and dedication.

Now with the clarification regarding state level project judging, we will be able to move forward to work on our county’s project judging. An email was sent out earlier this week to all advisors regarding an update Zoom we’ll be holding with them next Wednesday to roll out our judging plan so they can communicate with their club families. Thank you for your continued patience!
Project Showcase
The Senior Fair Board is moving forward with the opportunity for people to sponsor some Facebook posts of the Jr. Fair Board and some photo collages. They would like to begin collecting photos and short video clips of 4-H members working on their projects at home and via social distancing methods. If you haven’t already posted something to their Facebook page, please email me your photos and videos and I will forward them on!

Virtual Livestock Quality Assurance
If you haven’t completed QA yet and want to sign up for a virtual option, there are still sessions open. 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 have 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

Livestock Registration Deadline
The June 15 livestock registration deadline is quickly approaching! Remember we will not hold county-wide tag-ins for market hogs, sheep, or goats. Instead, you will complete Registration forms with pictures that CLEARLY show the county and EID tags (hogs) and scrapie tags (sheep and goats). The process has not changed for non-market animals. All registration forms and guidelines can be found here:
https://tuscarawas.osu.edu/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/guidelines-4-h-projects

Forms with pictures must be turned into the Extension Office (mailed or placed in the black drop-box outside the front door) by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 15.

Market Poultry
A letter was emailed and mailed to all market turkey exhibitors on last week regarding details for market turkey pick-up. We will send information directly to those enrolled in market ducks and broilers in the coming weeks.
“Keep the Lights on” at 4-H Camp Piedmont
We are well into the BuckeyeFunder Campaign to “keep the lights on” at 4-H Camp Piedmont as the majority of our summer events and all 4-H camping opportunities were canceled resulting in a huge loss of revenue for the camp. Our goal is to reach $25,000 and we have 13 days left to accomplish this goal! Will you help us reach our goal? I challenge all of you to share the BuckeyeFunder campaign website for 4-H Camp Piedmont and/or donate. If every family who loves Piedmont from our eight counties who utilize the camp makes even a small donation of $5.00, we would be in great shape! If you would like to donate using a check instead, 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. Your donation will be posted to the Camp Piedmont page along with the other donors. Thank you in advance!
https://buckeyefunder.osu.edu/project/20979?fbclid=IwAR2E_T3oV8lGo4tAESAXUNZDChGgjB9XAu-jcehA-COrsEaNUfyxp7Azbw

No In-Person Meeting Reminder
I just wanted to remind everyone that due to COVID-19 and the continuance of university closures – including Extension offices, all (in-person) programming planned until July 6 has been canceled. This includes county 4-H club meetings. NO CLUBS ARE TO BE MEETING IN PERSON BEFORE JULY 6. I received word this week that a couple clubs were planning to meet in person during the coming weeks – this is not permitted. Many clubs are utilizing the Zoom platform for their meetings. We understand this temporary situation is not ideal. However, since Extension is under the university – which includes all county 4-H clubs - we must adhere to the rules set in place by the university. If you need assistance with Zoom – questions or how to set a meeting for your club – please contact me (heckel.13@osu.edu) or Michelle (moon.317@osu.edu). Thank you for your understanding and adherence to this decision.

Have a nice weekend!
Kiersten