

May 22, 2020

Hello, Allen County 4-H Friends!

We wanted to provide you all with an update before the Memorial Day weekend as we've started hearing rumors about this summer. The Allen County 4-H Board of Directors is still working closely with the Allen County Fairgrounds Board of Directors to determine the safest possible way to provide in-person 4-H livestock shows and judging during the week of the fair.

We want to stress that 4-H judging and shows will look very different this year, but 4-H teaches resiliency and flexibility and we have no doubt that our 4-H members, families, and volunteers will demonstrate first-hand these life skills during this unique year. We have many, many people working very hard right now to plan safe, educational experiences that will allow youth to showcase their hard work this year.

One small price to pay for moving forward with in-person show plans is that 4-H members, volunteers, judges, and Purdue Extension staff will be required to wear face coverings while on the fairgrounds when adequate social distancing is difficult to accommodate. This is a slight change to requirements released by Purdue Extension on May 15. We will be working with the Allen County Department of Health to determine when face coverings will be required for our shows. This is for the safety of our 4-H members, volunteers, and staff. If youth are not comfortable wearing a face covering during the situations in which they are determined essential, we suggest they show their exhibits virtually this year. Volunteers who do not feel comfortable wearing a face covering during the situations in which they are determined essential will be asked to refrain from volunteering that week. Because face coverings are still recommended in the Back on Track Indiana plan for Stage 5, we hope to see all of your cool masks throughout the week.

All members will receive instructions for uploading photographs into FairEntry in the next few weeks. Although the plan is not to have a virtual fair at this point, Allen County could see spikes in cases of COVID-19, which may cause us to either not reach Stage 5 or go from Stage 5 back to a Stage 4 or Stage 3 before our shows. Having photographs in FairEntry is an additional safety measure we are putting in place in case this happens. Again, the plan is to have in-person livestock judging and shows. Non-livestock judging will be closed to accommodate proper social distancing guidelines. We will be providing detailed instructions once we have solidified those plans.

We want to thank you all for your continued patience and flexibility as we work through the long list of logistics and planning. We're so proud of all of our 4-H members, families, and volunteers as we work together to find solutions for challenges we had never heard of a few short months ago. We are in this together, and together we are 4-H Strong.

Have a fantastic Memorial Day weekend.

samm

Samm Johnson

he/him/his

Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development

Purdue Extension – Allen County

4001 Crescent Avenue

Fort Wayne, IN 46815

o: 260.481.6826 f: 260.481.6439