

## Greene County 4-H Important COVID-19 Updates

As of March 26, 2020, 12:00 p.m. (information is subject to change based on updates the 4-H program is receiving daily)

Dear 4-H Families, Volunteers, and Supporters,

It's hard to believe that just three weeks ago we were preparing to welcome 1200 volunteers and teens to the annual Ohio 4-H Youth Conference in Columbus. We know much has changed since that time for all of us, but what hasn't changed is the commitment of Ohio's 4-H professionals to the youth in their counties.

I want to update you with information about how the 4-H program is moving forward during this global pandemic. One week ago, county OSU Extension offices temporarily closed to help reduce opportunities for the virus to continue to spread. 4-H professionals and their OSU Extension colleagues worked quickly to transition their materials and resources to be able to continue working from their homes. In just a few short days, they connected with you via email, began offering virtual meetings and regularly updated web sites and social media with current information and resources. I could not be prouder of their willingness to handle this challenge and seek ways in which to keep 4-H programming alive and well.

For many of our families, virtual (or online) meetings seem to be working well, however I recognize it doesn't work for everyone due to accessibility issues in parts of the state. We are continuing to explore options and will share solutions in the next few weeks. In the meantime, there are tip sheets for club leaders with options and ideas for holding virtual club meetings at [go.osu.edu/4hadvisorinfo](http://go.osu.edu/4hadvisorinfo). Keep checking this site, because we will continue to add information to help you.

We know the spread of coronavirus also presents great uncertainty about upcoming 4-H events—Will camps happen this summer? Will we be able to exhibit our projects at fairs? What about project judging? And the answer is that right now, we just don't know. At this point, all 4-H activities, club meetings, events and programs must be held virtually or cancelled until May 15. The situation is dynamic and changes daily, so we will continue to monitor conditions and reevaluate as needed. This ban may need to extend beyond May 15. During this time of unprecedented health concerns, we will work together to keep you updated and informed.

We understand concerns that some fairs may not be able to take place this year due to the global pandemic health emergency. Any decision to cancel a local fair, festival, parade or other large group gatherings will be made by those authorized to protect the health and wellbeing of all Ohioans. 4-H members and their families should consider a number of factors as they make their decisions to purchase 4-H market livestock projects. Risks and rewards must be taken into account. For example, we encourage families to consider their overall available budget, space to care for livestock, availability of alternative markets, availability of local processing, family freezer space, and needs of local food pantries.

OSU Extension and 4-H will continue working together to support our 4-H members, families, volunteers and local partners, including senior fair boards, classroom teachers, and magistrates, as we navigate this health emergency. As Governor DeWine shared earlier this week, we are "in this together Ohio." Thank you for your continued patience and perseverance.

Yours in service to 4-H,  
Kirk Bloir  
Assistant Director, OSU Extension 4-H Youth Development



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**ALL DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE:****Greene County 4-H Events and Activities thru May 15 have been postponed, cancelled or offered virtually.**

- **ALL CLUB MEETINGS need to be CANCELLED.** This includes all social events, service projects, fundraising events, hands-on events like field trips, shoots, etc., and regular club meetings. This needs to be cancelled until at least May 15.
- **Club enrollment changes and all dues-** clubs that have not turned this in yet have until May 18 to do so. This can be mailed or brought to the office on May 18.
- **Flower sale-** Unfortunately, we must cancel our fundraiser for this year. We are so sorry to announce this. Please hold off on collecting any order forms and money. We hope to have more information by April 15 with any alternatives, if possible. In the meantime, when Stockslager's Greenhouse and Garden Center reopens, please consider supporting a local company.
- **4-H Project Books-** Please continue to email Pat Zehring at [Zehring.5@osu.edu](mailto:Zehring.5@osu.edu) with your club book orders. As this time we want members to be working on books if they have them. Currently we are not receiving new book shipments. We will have more information next week regarding plans for 4-H project book distribution. There are several details the state is working through. As we get more information, I will pass it on.
- **Project Judging-** About hosting large group activities this summer, such as project judging, the state plans to have a decision by **June 1** for those taking place in July.
- **Meetings-** The updated county meeting requirement for this year is **FOUR** meetings. Each county 4-H member will need to work with club leaders to complete four meetings by **July 15**.
- **Camp-** Counties have been asked to refrain from sending camp registration materials until after April 15. By that time the state hopes to be better situated to understand summer scheduling and camp needs.
- **Hog pictures\*-** All exhibitors will need to upload pictures by May 8. [www.go.osu.edu/greenecohog](http://www.go.osu.edu/greenecohog)
- **Tag-in/weigh-in in May\*-** These are cancelled. ALL EXHIBITORS WILL NEED TO UPLOAD PICTURES AT THE FOLLOWING LINKS BY MAY 8- Date subject to change:
  - **Market Sheep-** [www.go.osu.edu/greeneosheep](http://www.go.osu.edu/greeneosheep)
  - **Market Goat-** [www.go.osu.edu/greeneogoat](http://www.go.osu.edu/greeneogoat)
  - **Market Hog-** [www.go.osu.edu/greenecohog](http://www.go.osu.edu/greenecohog)

**Additional Scheduled Changes:**

- 3/30- Shooting Sports meeting- **CANCELLED**- in addition, ALL shoots/practices are **CANCELLED through at least May 15<sup>th</sup>**
- 3/31- CARTEENS- **CANCELLED**
- 4/14- CARTEENS- **CANCELLED**
- 4/18- Low Rope Training for Camp Counselors- **CANCELLED**
- 4/19- Camp Counselor Training- Will be conducted **virtually**- not in person- please check emails for more information

Livestock location form due by May 8- please complete at [www.go.osu.edu/greenelivestocklocation](http://www.go.osu.edu/greenelivestocklocation)

ALL 4-H livestock (horse, rabbit, etc.) & committee (4-H) meetings need to be **CANCELLED** or held virtually through at least May 15. I will work with the committees to help do this.

- June 1 at 9:00 a.m. This will meet the county requirement for beef, pork, and regular QA. We will look at scheduling an additional one in early June.  
[https://greene.osu.edu/sites/greene/files/imce/Program\\_Pages/4H/Livestock/updated%20qa.pdf](https://greene.osu.edu/sites/greene/files/imce/Program_Pages/4H/Livestock/updated%20qa.pdf)
- Advisors are welcome to hold meetings virtually if they have the means and have important matters to discuss. Clubs can use Google Hangout or Zoom or any other platform to conduct these meetings.

For the 2020 year only, QA must still be completed before the opening day of exhibition, however the 45-day requirement will not be enforced.

**\*Additional dates on this are subject to change. We will continue to update as needed.**

As we move through this time of fluctuation in events, I will be offering details and updates as needed. Thank you for your understanding.

If you have any further questions, please contact Rebecca at [supinger.5@osu.edu](mailto:supinger.5@osu.edu) or 937-372-9971