



Dear 4-H Families,

We want to provide an update, as far as we have it, for our 2020 4-H program year.

We have appreciated the flexibility, understanding and engagement that our families have given us throughout this year's ever changing program year. We strongly believe that to be the best that we can be and provide quality positive youth development opportunities to you, we need to be adaptive and innovative!

On that note, we have provided the following below *alternative* and flexible options are being made available to our families. We will have specific guidance and sign-ups available for these options in the coming days and weeks.

Project Completion and Record Books

- We fully understand that this year has been, well a lot of things, and we want to be flexible and use this as an opportunity for youth to reflect on their experiences.
- We know that some of your animals have been worked with more, you've been home with them and others who lease, they may haven't had a chance to work with their animals.
- Market Animals: You must hand in a project record book for your animals at weigh-in, Thursday August 6th.
- All other projects can choose to complete their record books (animals and general) or will hand in a *Covid-19 Journal*. Please download the *Social Distancing, Making History* project for Cloverbud or Regular members on the CCE 4-H Webpage for more guidance as to how to fill out your project story or journal.

General Projects

Showcase Options:

- In-Person: August 2nd and August 4th we will offer, in-person by appointment, opportunities for members to bring their projects to be evaluated.
- Photo: Members will be able to send in a photo and description of their project by August 1st to be evaluated by an evaluator for their ribbon.
- Drop-Off: The week prior to August 1st members can set up a time to drop off their items to be evaluated.
- Zoom: Members can sign up to zoom with an evaluator to talk about their project that was either dropped off or a photo sent in. We request a photo sent in to ensure a clear representation of your photo.
- Please note that, because there is no official fair entry and showcase, these projects will be eligible for entry for 2021 and eligible for state fair for individuals who are still in the 4-H age range in 2021.

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Animal Shows

- The Chemung County Agriculture Society and CCE Chemung County 4-H are working together to bring shows to our members and our agriculture community. Registration is now open via FairEntry for this event.
- CDC, State and 4-H guidelines will be followed and put in place for the safety of all participants.
- At this time, there will be premiums for in-person shows.
- The show schedule is attached. Shows are in and out. The only animals required to stay will be market livestock.
- Open and 4-H shows will run simultaneously, members will receive open and 4-H recognition and champions will be given accordingly.
 - Because of the connection to the open show, the \$15 per family fee charged by the Agriculture Society to show does apply, but CCE Chemung 4-H is covering that fee for families with the assistance of funds from the Tractor Supply Clover Campaign.
 - Showmanship will be judged during regular species classes by a specific species showmanship judge. The judge will give the blue, red or white ribbon and a gold seal to the animal/member combinations they would like to see come back for master showman at the end of the day.
- The horse show will take place, but in an educational and clinic type show. FairEntry will not be used to register for this show.
- **New!** We are asking that families fill out an *Intent to Show* form to allow us to be better prepared for what is coming (all animals breeding and market).
- Virtual Options: We understand that some may not feel comfortable or prepared to show in person this year. Animal photos may be entered similarly to general projects to receive their blue, red or white ribbon.

Livestock Sale

- The 4-H program will be held this year. The sale will be virtual through FairEntry. We are going to **highly encourage** individuals pay by credit card.
- We will require that those who sell complete or provide the following by July 20th
 - A photo of member and animal along with a description to be shared for promotion.
 - Attend the following on-demand trainings:
 - How to Market Your Market Animal
 - Raising Livestock with Quality Assurance and Bio-Security in Mind
 - The Ins and Outs of the Livestock Sale (this training is not complete yet)
- We will have some form of basket/auction item for other species. We may reach out to parents and members to help put these together. The *new* additions may be: Small Animal, Dog, Horse and General Project.
- Promotion of and education on how individuals can buy will be **crucial** to the success of the sale!
- We want to remind our members that this year, where you find your buyers might change. Businesses have clearly been hit hard due to COVID-19 and we need to respect what they can and cannot do for our sale this year. Reach out to them with a clear message that we thank them for their time and commitment to their community, but if they can't buy could they help spread the word!

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District Presentation Virtual Showcase

- Elaine and I are leading an effort for the South-Central Region to create an alternative to the previously cancelled district presentations.
- More details will be to come. There will be classes for originally qualified individuals to compete and a new class that will allow any member to try their hand creating a virtual presentation to enter!
- We will also be asking you to help refer evaluators willing to evaluate virtual presentations.

Club Meetings and 4-H Events

- We are currently working on a process to allow club meetings to start July 13th.
- As we put this in place, things can change. We may have to rescind the action and go back to virtual only should Covid-19 continue to spike and New York State increase restrictions again.
- Members will be required to follow physical distancing guidelines and must wear masks. We ask that you help us and your club leaders follow all procedures to keep our members and families safe.
- Club leaders cannot meet until they have attended an orientation and have an approved plan in the office. Volunteers will be asked to fill out a short plan of how they will be following guidelines for:
 - Signing in and out
 - Physical Distancing
 - Symptom screening
 - Supply and area sanitation
 - Hand washing, hygiene and sanitizer stations
- In order for this to be success, families must help our volunteers adhere to these guidelines! Do not give our volunteers or staff trouble, these are the guidelines we must have in place and you need to follow them.
- Finally, all families who participate in any 4-H activity must sign a ***Cornell Cooperative Extension Assumption of the Risk and Waiver of Liability to Coronavirus/COVID-19***
 - *Please find this attached. Sign one per child and send it via fax, email or physical mail.*
- Finally, please note that meeting in-person is not a requirement and choosing not to attend will not be held against you. Leaders will be asked, as part of their meeting plan, how they will be able to share the information and activities from their meeting with those who are unable to attend.

We appreciate your continued patience as we work through the ever changing guidelines to adapt programming. Elaine and I are invigorated by the interactions we have had with our members. We look forward to seeing your faces! Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sasha Dieckman".

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