June 10, 2015

To: 4-H Members and Families enrolled in poultry projects,

Last week the Ohio Department of Agriculture announced the cancellation of all bird exhibitions, public shows, and sales in Ohio for the remainder of 2015. This means there will be NO LIVE BIRDS on the fairgrounds. The commercial egg class is not affected by the ODA ban. We thank you for your patience and understanding during this time of uncertainty. We have been busy working on a plan to best allow the exhibitors to complete and enjoy their projects. The following plan has been approved by the Seneca County Agricultural Society and will be the plan of action in 2015. If the ban continues for multiple years, the plan will be reevaluated each year.

The decision was made to not allow members to switch or add another project(s) because the enrollment and possession deadlines have passed. In addition to that, Ohio 4-H would not support such a decision. You may read the direct quote and reasons for it below.

“Ohio 4-H does not endorse youth members switching or adding 4-H projects after enrollment and possession deadlines. Agricultural and food animal production involves both rewards and risks. Weather and diseases are factors that can and do negatively impact production. Avian influenza is one such disease. Part of the overall 4-H youth development experience is providing positive and supportive environments and experiences in which youth learn from the thrill of successes. Equally important, is learning to cope with the sting of disappointments. It is also an opportunity to learn important life lessons in effectively coping with and responding to challenging situations.” Lucinda Miller Extension Specialist

Entries for poultry classes are still required for all exhibitors through the online system of ShoWorks. They are due June 15th. After entries are made, there are two options available to exhibitors.

**Option 1** allows the exhibitors to complete their project without live birds at their home. The requirement for project completion is as follows:

- A poster or some other type of educational display showing elements of knowledge gained during the project.
- Completion of the skillathon and interview which will take place on July 20th from 6:00-8:00pm. If you are unable to attend please call the Junior Fair office before July 20th at 419-447-1682.

**Option 2** is for exhibitors that wish to participate in the sale and raise their poultry projects to completion.

- A poster to display in the barn in place of your live animal. The poster should be in correlation with the species it represents. For example, if you are taking meat ducks and broilers you will need to make a poster for the meat ducks and also a poster for broilers.
- **Poster Requirements**
  - Minimum of three to five photographs. The exhibitor must be in at least one photograph with the animal. (Photo examples: feeding, watering, developmental stages, etc.)
  - Posters should also include summary statements of projects including challenges faced and new knowledge learned.
  - Feed tag.
  - When constructing posters, see page 9 of the 4-H Family Handbook for general guidelines.
• Exhibitors will be required to bring in the hatch papers during weigh in time to show proof of ownership. Non-market projects/birds that would have been over a year old need a picture showing the bird(s) with the member.
  o These documents and posters will only be accepted during weigh in time on Sunday, July 26 from 2:00 – 4:00 PM.
• Completion of the skillathon and interview which will take place on July 20th from 6:00-8:00pm. If you are unable to attend please call the Junior Fair office before July 20th at 419-447-1682.
• Exhibitors will be required to participate in a mock showmanship class on Monday, July 27 at 9:00 AM when the actual poultry show would have been. The exhibitors will be using a poultry prop that will be provided by the Junior Fair and also answering knowledge based questions from the judge that was originally hired for the show. There will be winners in each age division and a Super Showmanship Class. The winner of Super Showmanship will go on to Sweepstakes showmanship on Saturday night as normal.
• Poultry exhibitors choosing to participate in the commercial sale will only be allowed one poultry transaction. There will be no base bid money available. Each exhibitor is responsible for the processing of their animals. No processor will be available through the fair.
• In lieu of the second sale transaction, there will be a bucket of chicken sale. This will be ran as the previous gallon of milk and bag of wool sales were done. Exhibitors will be required to decide at weigh-in time if they will be participating in the bucket of chicken sale for their second sale transaction or selling other species of livestock.

Additional educational experiences are still being planned for the remainder of the poultry show time. These may include a quiz bowl type contest, demonstrations by members or other activities.

If you have any questions, please call the OSU Extension office or the Seneca County Jr Fair office. Together we can still make this a positive experience for the exhibitors.

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