

To our 4-H Families:

Governor DeWine recently issued a state of emergency and implemented a variety of strategies to reduce the spread of the disease. In order to do our part in reducing risk to our employees or clientele, we have implemented a teleworking plan. OSU Extension offices will be closed to the public starting on Thursday, March 19 until further notice. While our offices will be physically closed, we are committed to continuing to conduct our work as fully as possible. In recent years, we've invested in the technology needed to facilitate effective teleworking. We will utilize all our teleworking capabilities to continue serving our clientele and communities. You should continue to feel free to call, email, etc. with any OSU Extension staff member as you normally would.

OSU Extension is deeply committed to the health and well-being of its staff and doing our part to help slow the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

It has been quite a week with changes coming quickly. Thank you for your patience with your county 4-H staff, the state 4-H office and OSU Extension. I know you have many questions:

- When can we have club meetings?
- Will there be summer camp?
- Should we invest in projects?
- What about fair?

The answer is at this point, we just don't know. It is all changing rapidly. But what we do know for sure is that we're committed to doing our part to help prevent the spread of the corona virus. We also know that when we choose to act together, we can have incredible positive impacts.

The actions we've taken so far are in alignment with necessary precautions recommended by the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Ohio Department of Health. These are in place to help keep us all from getting, or unintentionally spreading, this virus.

To help clarify, we are asking that ALL 4-H events, programs, and activities scheduled between now and April 20 be held virtually, postponed, or cancelled.

We highly encourage those clubs that have not yet turned in enrollments to come in if able on Wednesday, March 18 during our business hours of 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., so we can enter enrollments while still telecommuting and while the office is closed temporarily. If that is not a possibility, we will take your enrollments after we have been given the clear to open the office again. Please know that we are unsure of when the office will re-open at this time.

For our livestock project members and families, Ohio 4-H and the Ohio Department of Agriculture discussed some changes for this year that will help mitigate the effects the corona virus is having on holding in-person programming. For livestock quality assurance (QA) for the 2020 year **only**:

- QA must still be completed by the county deadline of May 1, 2020
- The county-wide QA scheduled for Sunday, April 26 at Sentinel from 4-6 p.m. with test out starting at 3 p.m. for anyone 15+ as of January 1, 2020 is still on at this time, but may be cancelled as we hear more on how things evolve.



- Youth livestock exhibitors (8-18) may take the online YQCA certification at <https://yqca.learn-grow.io/Account/Login>
 - If you are age 15+ as of January 1, 2020, we encourage you to fulfill this QA option as there is no guarantee to be able to take the test out option at this time
 - Every member must select the **FFA and independent sign in**
 - Cost is \$12/member
 - After completing the entire training, please send certification number to cole.537@osu.edu and/or Mancuso.48@osu.edu
 - Please follow the “Getting Your YQCA Web-Based Certification” steps to help you.
- The BQA/PQA online courses do not meet the Ohio Youth Food Animal QA certification requirement.

We will do what we can to keep you updated with the latest news and information via our Facebook page (Ohio State-Seneca County 4-H Program), our website (www.seneca.osu.edu), and via e-mail. Thank you for all of your patience and cooperation during this time.

Sincerely,

Katie Cole

Katie Cole
Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development