Meadowlark Extension District
4-H Q & A – related to COVID -19
April 15 & 16

This is an ever changing environment! 4-H is NOT shut down, but we are changing the way we do business. We are trying to be as upfront and transparent on information we know, as soon as we know it!

Questions to address: (we’ve heard these from you, what else is there?)

1. Will there be virtual options for the cancelled State summer of Face to Face 4-H events?
   - Virtual options are being considered for State 4-H events, like Discovery Days and others, but nothing has been put out on this yet. State-wide working groups are being formed to look at options for virtual experiences, 4-H Club/Volunteer support and professional development opportunities. As soon as we know information we will share it via email, website and MED 4-H Facebook group.

2. Is there a possibility of changing the July 4th decision if testing is developed and medical advancements change the social distancing requirements in place now?
   - There has not been discussion of any of these restrictions being lifted. Any state event that has been cancelled, postponed or moved virtually through July 4 will stay that way. If we are given “loosened” requirements for local interactions, that will be relayed.

3. When will the Extension Office be open?
   - MED Offices are currently closed to the public through July 4. If stay at home orders are loosened, staff (with Extension Board approval) MAY be allowed to go back to offices to work, but will not have public interaction face to face. Phones are being rolled to Office Professional’s homes, staff are working from home and we are still open for business – maintaining social distancing and following stay at home orders.

4. Will there be a fair like normal since it is after July 4? What about entries July 1?
   - We are moving forward with the mindset that fairs fall outside the July 4 window and will happen as close to “normal” as possible. This is something that is being monitored closely and two “tracks” are planned. 1) Business as usual (or very close) with face to face fair and 2) virtual/distance fair opportunities for 4-H.
   - 4-H participation is under the governance of K-State Research and Extension policies, the fair events themselves under the direction of local Fair Boards/Associations. This partnership works closely together and will need to stay in communication moving forward.
   - We hope to know more about July as we get into the month of May. Even if face to face fairs are not an option, there will be “virtual fair” activities offered. Much to be determined what that MIGHT look like.

5. How might a virtual fair work and how will it be “fair”?
   - One of the state 4-H working groups will be working on this very thing. This may look different by project area, as we know Foods judging might need to look very different from Photography, as an example. Every effort will be made to keep project learning and feedback in the forefront for the 4-H member.

6. Should members drop any project just because they are scared of the fair being cancelled?
   - NO! Projects should be year-round activities of goal setting, project learning experiences, presentations, leadership, citizenship, record keeping and more! If a physical exhibit at a face to face fair is not a possibility, there is NO reason to drop the project. Project work is more than a fair exhibit!!!
   - May 1st add/drop project deadline is still in place, so if nothing is happening in a project area or you’ve added another, please add or drop projects like normal by this deadline.

7. Do horse ID’s still need to be turned in by May 1st?
   - YES, for those wishing to possibly participate in the Kansas State Fair 4-H Horse show. There will not be District shows happening in 2020, but properly IDing horses by May 1st is still required. Some local fairs in MED do NOT require horse ID forms, but it is always best to ID horses. More information about State 4-H horse participation, will be sent to horse families soon.
8. Do virtual club meetings “carry the same weight” as face to face meetings?
   - YES! Club leaders should make effort to hold virtual meetings via digital/video/voice options and make these as accessible as possible to all members. Members should make effort to engage and participate in these meetings, just like face to face.
   - For the purpose of club seals, achievement pin applications, premium sale requirements, scholarship applications, etc... these digital meetings “count” just like a normal in person meeting.

9. Questions related to the home tagging process due June 1. [https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/2020_tagging_information.html](https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/2020_tagging_information.html) Breeding animals, photos, taggers, old tags, scrapie tags, rate of gain contest, YQCA online, already tagged animals, why not a “drive through weigh-in” etc...
   - K-State directive is for ALL remaining weigh-ins for 2020 to be cancelled.
   - Some TAGGING options were given from K-State, MED chose to follow a process similar to what our swine families have been doing for many years. Complete information found at the link above and emailed out. Drive through tagging was an option, but had more concerns for biosecurity than our current process.
   - Forms, examples, informational videos are all found on the above website. If you do not have a RED ALLFLEX TOTAL TAGGER as shown on that page, ask others in your club or contact the offices for help.
   - Breeding animals do not require, for county fairs, an official KS 4-H EID tag. Visual tags, tattoos, etc.. will work for breeding heifers. Scrapie tags will work for breeding does & ewes. Swine ear notches/tags will work, but we strongly encourage all swine to have an official KS 4-H EID. Having an EID allows you to move from breeding to market and is a recommended practice for Sheep, Swine and Meat Goats.
   - If animals have an old KS 4-H EID (aged does/ewes as an example) those will suffice. Most of these tags are USDA 840 compliant tags and it is ILLEGAL to remove them.
   - Beef in Jackson and Jefferson were weighed & tagged like normal, they will have rate of gain contest. This contest will not be possible for the other species in 2020.

10. How is are the State Livestock Nominations to be handled at this time? [https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/nominated-livestock/](https://www.asi.k-state.edu/research-and-extension/youth-programs/nominated-livestock/)
    - This process will continue as is, found on the website above. Market Beef due May 1, all others June 15.
    - Digital signatures will be allowed, but deadlines are FIRM. If you are considering this process – START NOW!

11. Will adjustments be made to the Achievement Pin applications? If so when will families know? Who makes that call, District/State?
    - These are state forms and no discussion of changing them due to this situation have been discussed.
    - We should have the flexibility locally to work with interpretation of the requirements, given the environment.
    - Virtual experiences are encouraged (if you record them, share on our Facebook group!) and will “count”.

12. Are adjustments going to be made to the Premium Sale Requirements? Who makes that call? When will families know?
    - These forms could possibly be reviewed and adjusted, something we are watching as this evolves.
    - The MED Governing Body along with the 3 respective Fair Boards, would need to make a uniform recommendation/adjustment. FFA advisors would need to be consulted for the FFA requirements.
    - The 5 meeting requirement could/should have already been met by the March announcement, with many clubs continuing to meet digitally. There have been some limitations in optional requirements #4, 5 & 6, but any possible virtual options would count there. All others could have possibly been met already.

13. Is there a place to go to find distance resources on your website? [https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/Distance_Learning.html](https://www.meadowlark.k-state.edu/4-h/Distance_Learning.html)
    - This newly created page is by no means comprehensive, but is a start. Share good links you have found with us as this page will continue to evolve and develop.

14. Others?
    - We will be checking on eligibility requirements for future years, for those members who may possibly be “losing” opportunities in 2020. National Shooting Sports as an example. Like all of these questions, we will share what we know, when we know it!