

* ADVENTURES AWAIT! * May-Ju SANGAMON/MENARD 4-H NEWSLETTER

A Note from Illinois 4-H

As Illinois residents contemplate the impact of the coronavirus health pandemic on summer plans, University of Illinois Extension has released updated guidelines for Extension sponsored events and activities. The new guidelines continue to focus on the safety of event participants while recognizing that these activities support the health and vitality of communities across Illinois.

Following the direction of the Illinois Department of Public Health and the University of Illinois, Extension has developed a phased approach to deciding about event formats for summer 2020 and beyond.

- As of May 4: events through July 5 cancelled or transitioned to an online format
- June 1: decision shared regarding July 6 –July 31 events
- July 1: decision shared regarding August 1-15 events
- July 15: decision shared regarding August 16-31 events
- August 1: decision shared regarding September 1-30 events

Additionally, all Illinois Extension camps, including 4-H youth day camps and overnight camps, are canceled through August 15.

For shows that are transitioned to an online format, 4-H members will upload photos and other materials to a virtual exhibition platform called FairEntry as evidence of the skills and knowledge gained while working on their projects. The system allows judges to review each project and provide vital learning feedback for exhibitors. The virtual system also allows judges to select the top exhibits, including those that qualify for exhibition at the Illinois State Fair. Illinois 4-H staff are updating project guidelines, developing support documentation for the new system, and creating training resources for volunteer judges and 4-H exhibitors. 4-H members will receive guidance from staff about how to use the new system and how to prepare for a successful virtual project exhibition.

"4-H shows play a critical role in the 4-H model and we wanted to avoid canceling them outright," says Lisa Diaz, Illinois Extension assistant dean and director of Illinois 4-H. "Over the past several weeks, we evaluated a variety of alternatives so that a contingency plan would be ready, if in-person events weren't an option. We are confident that virtual exhibitions through FairEntry are the best solution for allowing 4-H members to participate in this important activity, even during the incredibly unusual circumstances created by the current public health situation."

All information in this newsletter is subject to change, following state and University guidelines. We will continue to send updates as new information becomes available. Please contact staff via email (Sharon Lounsberry at slounsbe@illinois.edu or Amy Zepp at azepp2@illinois.edu) if you have questions.

Extension



Sangamon Office – 700 S. Airport Dr., Springfield, IL, 62707 · 217-782-4617 Menard Office – 420 S. 7th St., Petersburg, IL, 62675 · 217-632-7491 https://extension.illinois.edu/LMS/4-H-youth-development

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What is the status of the Sangamon/Menard 4-H Shows?

- Sangamon/Menard Public Speaking Contest
 - Will be incorporated into the Sangamon/Menard General Projects Show using the FairEntry system
 - Entries accepted June 12-26
- Unit 16 Horse Show
 - Will be held virtually using the FairEntry system; details sent directly to members in the Horse project
- Unit 16 Dog Obedience, Showmanship, Rally Show
 - Now combined with the Unit 16 4-H Dog Care Show tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 1, at the Logan County Fairgrounds
- Sangamon/Menard General 4-H Projects Show
 - Will be held virtually using the FairEntry system
 - Entries accepted June 12-26
- Sangamon County 4-H Livestock Shows
 - Will be held virtually using the FairEntry system
 - Entries accepted June 12-26
- Menard County Livestock Shows (scheduled for July 14-19 at the Menard County Fairgrounds)
 A decision will be made by June 1
- Sangamon/Menard 4-H Rabbit Show (scheduled for Thursday, July 16, at the Menard County Fairgrounds)
 - A decision will be made by June 1
- Unit 16 4-H Dog Care Show (scheduled for Saturday, August 1, at the Logan County Fairgrounds)
 - A decision will be made by July 1
- Unit 16 4-H Cat Show (scheduled for Saturday, August 1, at the Logan County Fairgrounds)
 - A decision will be made by July 1
- Illinois State Fair (exhibit day for Sangamon and Menard is scheduled for Saturday, August 15)
 - State Fair Delegates and Alternates will be chosen during the county shows
 - If the State Fair takes place as scheduled, members chosen to advance will exhibit their projects inperson. If the State Fair is canceled, Illinois 4-H will hold a virtual show and the information/photos you submitted for the county show will be used for state-level judging if you are chosen to advance.

What do I do next?

- If you are participating in a show that is being moved to the virtual format:
 - Watch for an email soon with updated exhibit requirements and details of what you will be expected to upload for each project area.
 - Prior to June 12, you will be sent an email with instructions on how to upload your exhibit.
 - You will not need to log into FairEntry until you are ready to upload the photos and information for your projects to be judged.
- If you are participating in a show scheduled for July 6 or later:
 - Watch for an update after June 1 about the status of shows scheduled July 6-31.

What if I have questions?

- Start by reading the Frequently Asked Questions document included with this newsletter.
- We will be scheduling a Zoom meeting shortly after the updated exhibit requirements are sent to families to provide some pointers and help answer questions.
- Since local staff are still working from home, please reach out via email if you have questions Carissa Davis (<u>akpore@illinois.edu</u>), Sharon Lounsberry (<u>slounsbe@illinois.edu</u>), or Amy Zepp (<u>azepp2@illinois.edu</u>).



Swine Nomination Form

Sangamon County 4-H members exhibiting swine will <u>not</u> be required to submit a nomination form – this year only.

Illinois State Fair Livestock Entry Information

Illinois State Fair Junior Department classes and requirements are available at

https://www2.illinois.gov/statefair/competitions/premium-books. Junior Livestock animal entry forms are also available at this site and can be filled in online before printing. State Fair Junior Livestock Department entries must be submitted by the 4-H member TO THE STATE FAIR. **The deadline to enter the Illinois State Fair Junior Horse Show is June 20. The deadline to enter the Illinois State Fair Junior Livestock Shows is July 15.** This year, staff will be unable to sign entry forms. Members choosing to submit their forms should print a staff member's name (Sharon Lounsberry or Amy Zepp) on the signature line and submit their forms to the State Fair. The Illinois State Fair Junior Department will contact 4-H staff to verify 4-H enrollment after entries are made. Junior Department judging schedule is available at https://web.extension.illinois.edu/lms/downloads/78435.pdf.

Illinois State Fair General Project Exhibit Information

The very best projects exhibited at county-level shows will be chosen to exhibit alongside projects from 4-H'ers across the state at the 2020 Illinois State Fair. With the timing of the state fair and the start date for many schools, the 4-H



General Project Show at the state fair has been condensed to three days: August 14-16. **Sangamon and Menard counties will exhibit on Saturday, August 15**. The 4-H member must be present to exhibit. If he or she cannot be present, the opportunity is given to an alternate. General project exhibits must be **in place by 9:30 AM and remain on display until 4:00 PM**. Judging times will be posted at check-in and are not related to the order in which you check-in. All projects are displayed in the Orr Building, which is air-conditioned.

The awards will include Champion Medals for the highest score in each project class and Reserve Medals for the second highest score in each class. Cash premiums from the state will be paid to the medal winners. Innovation Awards will be given to exhibits judges find inspiring, innovative, or creative and are not based on scores. Medal winners cannot receive the innovation award in 2020.

If the State Fair takes place as scheduled, members chosen to advance will exhibit their projects in-person. If the State Fair is canceled, Illinois 4-H will hold a virtual show and the information/photos you submitted for the county show will be used for state-level judging if you are chosen to advance.

Summer Job Opportunity

The Sangamon County 4-H Foundation is seeking reliable, hardworking teens as well as adult Shift Leaders to work in the 4-H Food Stand during the Illinois State Fair. Teen applicants should be age 16-19. 4-H membership and past experience in the food stand are a plus, but not required. Adult applicants for Shift Leaders should have food service experience, be at least 21 years old, and have an Illinois food handler's license or be willing to obtain one. For full consideration, applications must be RECEIVED by June 15 and mailed to: University of Illinois Extension, 700 S. Airport Dr. Springfield, IL 62707 or submitted via email to: sangamon.co.4h.foundation@gmail.com. Contact Angela Gerberding (217-306-3119) or Lindsey Sidles (217-306-3388) with questions. Application is available at go.illinois.edu/FoodStandApp. Hiring will be contingent on the Illinois State Fair being able to be held.



New "Learn & Share" Posts on Facebook

Like us on Facebook at <u>www.facebook.com/LMS.4H</u> to get updates and reminders about 4-H activities. While you're there, check out our series of "Learn & Share" posts with learning activities related to 4-H project areas. You don't have to be enrolled in a project to explore the activities! And you can share the posts with friends who are not in 4-H to give them a taste of some of the awesome things we learn about through 4-H! You will find a new "Learn & Share" post every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday through the end of May.

4-H Records and Awards Applications

It's not too early to start working on your 2019-2020 4-H Records! The type of Records you do each year depends on your age. All the documents are available at <u>go.illinois.edu/LMSrecords</u>. For each type of Records you will find a blank version, a fillable digital version, and an example version. Records are due to your leader by September 1. Late applications may not be judged.

What are 4-H Records?

Completing your 4-H Records is the annual process of tracking what you did during the past year. 4-H Records include:

- What you accomplished and learned in connection with your 4-H projects
- Participation and leadership in 4-H, school, and community activities
- A written narrative about what you learned, challenges you faced, and what you plan to do in the future

Your Records will be reviewed at the county level, and you will receive feedback on areas to improve.

Why should I do 4-H Records?

- Earn awards everyone who submits Records will receive a completion award; older members can compete for statelevel awards
- Celebrate your accomplishments and goals you met
- Gain organizational skills by tracking your activities
- Be ready for future applications for college, scholarships, and jobs

Register Your Service Projects

All 4-H members, families, and clubs are asked to register the service outreach efforts they have conducted or plan to conduct during the months of March, April and May. This registration form provides a spot to identify if planned service experiences were or will be conducted as a 4-H club, a 4-H family, or an individual 4-H member service project:

True Leaders in Service

https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/default.cfm?RegistrationID=22192.

Service/Safety Guidelines: The safety and well-being of our 4-H youth and families is always our top priority – it always has been and will continue to be. At this time, 4-H clubs are not allowed to meet in person. Planning for service activities can be conducted by 4-H Clubs using a virtual platform just like holding a virtual 4-H club meeting. 4-H Club engagement in service is a valued part of the Illinois Extension 4-H experience for thousands of youth each year and teaches valuable lessons. There is a tremendous need for service to support the physical and mental health of our communities, so we do want to provide safe ways in which 4-H clubs and members can provide those services. A box is provided in the registration form for you to check that you WILL adhere to the health and safety guidelines provided. Projects that involve individuals gathering or meeting together are not an option at this time.



Treasurer Books & Secretary Books

At the end of the 4-H year on August 31, all 4-H clubs are required to turn in their Treasurer Book (unless they do not have a treasury) and Secretary Book to the Extension Office. If you are a Secretary or Treasurer, please be sure you are keeping your records and turn in your completed book to your club leader by August 31. If you are not clear about your duties, please ask your club leader for help. If you are a club leader, please check with your officers to be sure they are on track. Clubs that are meeting virtually should record minutes of those meetings. Treasurer and Secretary books can be found on our website at https://extension.illinois.edu/lms/4-h-club-resources-logan-menard-sangamon-counties.

STATE AND NATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

4-H Maker Monday Series

Maker Mondays, a YouTube series featuring the Illinois 4-H STEM Team, guides youth through the process of designing, fabricating, and finishing anything we can think of – from cosplay inspired outfits, to custom themed drones and gadgets. These videos are designed to inspire and encourage youth to expand their imaginations and build/make whatever they can think of. Our videos are not meant to transform youth into content experts, but rather into process experts with the tools and skills needed to find the answers to questions they have. Every video lists the materials and tools needed, and many videos will have accompanying downloads. In our first video, we make Mandalorian Armor from scratch using basic tools and a 3D printer! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7hhXcL-6fQ&feature=youtu.be

Apply to join the Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team

Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team applications are now open! Outstanding 4-H members or recent alumni age 16-20 who excel in leadership are strongly encouraged to apply. The Illinois 4-H Youth Leadership Team offers an opportunity to give back to the 4-H program while

further enhancing your leadership skills. Members of this team serve as ambassadors for Illinois 4-H at various events throughout the year, and they plan and run the Illinois 4-H Junior Leadership Conference. The team is actively involved in assisting the State 4-H Office in planning, implementing, and evaluating various 4-H events and activities; representing Illinois at National 4-H Conference; and serving as a youth voice of the Illinois 4-H Youth Development Program. For more information visit go.illinois.edu/4hylt. Applications due June 1 https://www.jotform.com/build/200865983373162

Sportsman's Skills Challenge

It's not too late to participate in the 4-H Everyday Sportsman's Skills Challenge, which **runs through July 15**. Interested 4-H members are presented with three sportsman's skills at a time which they learn by viewing suggested videos. Once they've mastered the skills, they contact their 4-H staff person (Amy Zepp, <u>azepp2@illinois.edu</u>) to communicate what they've learned. Each skill level mastered gets the 4-H member entered into a drawing for a high-quality multi-tool

sponsored by Illinois Pheasants Forever. To get started, visit <u>https://4h.extension.illinois.edu/events/4-h-everyday-sportsmans-skills-challenge</u>





Illinois State 4-H Youth Leadership Team



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Clover Spotlight!



- Members of the Town & Country 4-H Club made 12 fun pillowcases that will be used by patients at St. John's Children's Hospital.
- 4-H staff and leaders in Logan, Menard, and Sangamon Counties sent in selfies, so we could let our members know how much we miss them. Watch the video on our Facebook page at <u>https://www.facebook.com/LMS.4H/</u>

Your 4-H adventures can be featured too! Submit photos, stories, videos, etc to Amy Zepp (<u>azepp2@illinois.edu</u>).



Congratulations to our Sangamon/Menard 4-H Seniors!

- Clay Bruno Pleasant Plains Clovers
- Morgan Edwards Tri-City
- Rachel Fishburn Tri-City
- Mabel Fleck Pleasant Plains Clovers
- Dylan Fletcher Athens Prairieland
- Daniel Kloppe West Side
- David Moldenhauer Town & Country
- Jake O'Brien West Menarders
- Lindsay Palmer Sugar Creek Pioneers
- Cecilia Simpson Cooper Jets
- Courtney Wieland Pleasant Plains Clovers





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EDUCATOR CORNER – Carissa Davis



Some people **WISH** it will happen.

Some people **WAIT** for it to happen.

4-H people **MAKE** it happen.

4-Hers are just ordinary people with extraordinary hearts. They offer the gift of their time to teach, listen, to help, to inspire, to build, to grow, to learn.

4-Hers are just ordinary people who reach out and take a hand and together make a difference that lasts a lifetime.

The power of **YOU**th!

"To Make the Best Better"



Mark Your Calendar

information current as of May 15

All events scheduled through July 5 are canceled or transitioned to an online format.

- June 1 Decision shared regarding events scheduled July 6-31
- June 10 Deadline to submit Lamb and Goat Nomination Forms for State Fair
- June 12-26 FairEntry open for uploading entries for the Sangamon/Menard Public Speaking Contest, Sangamon/Menard 4-H General Projects Show, and Sangamon 4-H Livestock Shows
- June 17-21 Unit 16 Horse Show entries can be uploaded to FairEntry
- June 19-July 3 FairEntry open for uploading entries for the Menard County Livestock Shows
- June 20 Entry deadline for State Fair Junior Horse Show
- July 1 Decision shared regarding events scheduled August 1-15
- July 14-18 Menard County 4-H Livestock Shows (Petersburg)
- July 15 Decision shared regarding events scheduled August 16-31
- July 15 Entry deadline for State Fair Junior Livestock Shows
- July 16 Sangamon/Menard 4-H Rabbit Show (Petersburg)
- July 26-Aug 2 State Fair Junior Horse Show (Springfield)
- August 1 Decision shared regarding events scheduled September 1-30
- August 1 Logan/Menard/Sangamon 4-H Dog and Cat Shows (Lincoln)
- August 15 State Fair General Project Exhibit Day for Sangamon & Menard Counties (Springfield)
- August 17 State Fair Junior Poultry Show (Springfield)
- August 22 State Fair Junior Rabbit Show (Springfield)
- August 29 State 4-H Dog Show (Dixon)

<u>Non-Discrimination Statement:</u> Each 4-H club and, thus, each member is asked to comply with non-discrimination and equal opportunity regulations by law. Since 4-H is part of University of Illinois Extension's programs and activities, we must not show prejudice against any person because of race, color, national origin, religion, age, sexual preference, sex or handicap.

If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate in advertised programs, please contact the office at 217-782-4617.



Illinois 4-H Transitions to Virtual 4-H Shows for Summer 2020 Frequently Asked Questions

University of Illinois Extension continues to follow the guidance of the Illinois Department of Public Health and the University of Illinois to ensure the health and safety of staff, volunteers, and program participants. For future events, including summer Illinois 4-H shows and exhibitions, the organization has established a phased decision-making and communication timeline.

As the youth development program of Illinois Extension, 4-H activities abide by the guidelines of Illinois Extension, University of Illinois, and the State of Illinois. The following information relates to annual 4-H shows and exhibitions.

What is the timeline for decisions about 4-H summer shows and exhibitions?

- **May 4**: Illinois Extension announces that all in-person events scheduled through July 5 will be canceled, postponed, or transitioned online.
- May 4: Online 4-H exhibition platform, FairEntry, announced to support Illinois 4-H shows and exhibits. This virtual exhibition platform will be the contingency option available for all summer 4-H shows that are not able to host in-person events.
- June 1: decision shared regarding July 6 July 31 events.
- July 1: decision shared regarding August 1-15 events.
- July 15: decision shared regarding August 16-31 events.
- August 1: decision shared regarding September 1-30 events.

Does this timeline apply to 4-H club meetings?

Yes, 4-H clubs must abide by the same rules as all Illinois Extension programs.

What projects will be eligible for virtual exhibition?

All 4-H general project and 4-H livestock projects may be transitioned to the virtual platform, during the dates that it's not possible for the event to take place in-person.

What exactly is canceled, and what is still uncertain?

Illinois 4-H has not cancelled any 4-H shows or exhibits, but will transition these events to our online platform, FairEntry, when necessary to provide our 4-H members an opportunity to participate in an evaluation experience with an expert judge in their project area.

County fairs operate independent of each other and of Illinois 4-H. Check with your local county fair for more information about the current status of your local county fair. Illinois Extension and Illinois 4-H is proud to participate in many local fairs and will support these fairs to the best of our ability.

If our 4-H judging event was originally scheduled for June, can't we just postpone or reschedule?

4-H staff organize and implement nearly 100 judging events across the summer. Because of the planning time and resources involved in each of these events, we are not able to postpone and stack all events for a later time in the summer. It is also uncertain at this time when large group gatherings will be allowed according to public health guidelines. For those reasons, all 4-H exhibition events planned though July 5 will all be moved to the online platform.

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My child is in their final year of 4-H eligibility. Will they qualify for an extension of 4-H eligibility this year?

Another year of age eligibility will not be granted. Given that many state and national events are being canceled in 2020, there have been conversations around adding an extra year of eligibility for 4-H members. After a period of discussion and public input, the final recommendation from national 4-H committees is that all 4-H national and multi-state events will follow existing age requirements. Because these are valued culminating experiences, we are providing an online judging experience so that all 4-H members will continue to have this opportunity. We encourage youth in their final year of eligibility to participate in the online experience.

Why did 4-H start moving summer shows online when the governor's executive order only reaches through May 30?

Illinois Extension needed to provide a framework for 4-H staff and volunteers to move forward with planning events. In many locations, 4-H staff are already facing host facility cancellations, volunteer recruitment challenges, and logistical hurdles related to concerns about the safety of large group gatherings.

Why isn't a decision being made for the whole summer? If some events are moving to an online format, shouldn't they all?

We remain committed to pacing our decision-making process in coordination with available data needed to make those tough choices. While we feel confident that we have sufficient data to make a decision about June events, we recognize that this is a quickly evolving situation and that conditions may be different for July, August and September. We are making those decisions in consultation with our partner organizations, stakeholders, university leadership, and program participants.

We do not have reliable access to high speed internet, smartphones, or a computer. Will we be able to participate in the online experience?

We have chosen an online platform that requires the least bandwidth and can be accessed by either a smartphone on a data plan with access to a browser or a laptop connected to the internet. For families who do not have access to any technology, we will do our best to identify solutions to ensure that all 4-H members who want to participate in the online exhibitions can. These are not guaranteed and will depend on when we are able to safely return to county Illinois Extension offices across the state. Visit the <u>Illinois Extension website</u> to find a list of our local offices, their contact information, and their websites, which is where we'll post announcements about when we'll be returning to our office locations.

What kinds of videography, photography, audio, and other software or equipment do we need to compete using the online platform?

Youth can use either a smartphone with a data plan or a laptop connected to the internet to upload the documentation for their exhibit. Youth will also need access to a camera or camera phone to take photos. Refer to updated project guidelines for specific requirements related to different types of projects.

How can we prepare for the virtual competition?

Staff are developing a general tip sheet for using the system. Youth will also have some project-specific guidelines about how to properly display each project to most effectively demonstrate mastery of project skill. Illinois 4-H staff are also preparing a video orientation for online judging and it will be distributed to all 4-H members to help prepare them for this new experience.

Our county fair board plans to conduct a fair with procedures consistent with state guidelines. Will 4-H participate?

Some county fairs in June have already made a decision to cancel and others are actively weighing data to make their own decisions. We will support our valued county fair partners to the extent that we can, but as part of the University of Illinois system, we must follow campus guidelines regarding social distancing and group gatherings.

I read that the governor is considering a regional approach to lifting social distancing restrictions. If my county fair is able to proceed according to the new guidelines, will 4-H participate?

At this time, 4-H is only making a decision about in-person events planned through July 5. We are operating as if inperson events scheduled for July, August and September will happen as planned.

What is special about the July 5 date?

There was a natural break in the currently-scheduled 4-H shows that did not split a county 4-H show schedule. We did not want half of a county's 4-H show to fall in the canceled section and the other to fall in the allowed period.

How much lead time is required to conduct a 4-H in-person show? How much lead time is required to provide/support the online experience?

A minimum of four weeks is needed to coordinate the many variables involved in planning and preparing for a 4-H judging event. This includes recruiting judges and superintendents, onboarding all staff and volunteers, securing donors for awards, confirming facility contracts, ordering ribbons and other recognition items, and many other aspects of our 4-H judging events. This general timeline applies whether the event is online or in-person.

Will my photos and other content uploaded to the online platform be safe and secure for my child? Who will have access to those images and what happens to them after the event?

Only the assigned judge and staff will have access to the exhibit materials uploaded into FairEntry. After the event has concluded, the materials will be archived.

Will my child's name or images appear on public websites, apps, or social media?

To be eligible for award premiums through the Ag Premium Fund, all 4-H exhibits must be viewable by the public. These will be uploaded to share online after the virtual judging process has concluded. As with all in-person 4-H exhibits, the name of the exhibitor, name of 4-H club and county will be shared. No images of the 4-H youth will be included with exhibit photos or videos without confirmed parental permission.

Will the public or other participants be able to view my child's project?

Yes, all 4-H exhibits will be shared via the University of Illinois Extension website at <u>www.extension.illinois.edu</u>. Additional public viewing will be available through local press releases and social media.

Will my child be able to or be expected to interact with anyone other than 4-H staff and the project judge during the online experience?

No. Please remember that all 4-H staff and volunteers have been screened during the hiring process and have undergone child protection training regarding working with youth. Protocols are in place to protect your child during the online experience.

Will my child's project be eligible to qualify for state fair?

Yes. If your child's project fits in an eligible project category, they will be competing for the right to be selected as a delegate for State Fair. If the State Fair event in Springfield is cancelled, the State 4-H Office will conduct the state-level general project show in the same online platform.

Will state fair competitions be offered online too? Will it be the same online platform or a different one?

In the event that social distancing guidelines prevent large group gatherings in August, FairEntry would allow for a seamless execution of an online judging version of State 4-H General Project Show.

Will award premiums be granted to winning projects?

At this time, Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) indicates that if projects have the opportunity for public viewing (online or in person), they will be eligible for premiums through IDOA. Of course, premium money is determined solely by IDOA, and there are no guarantees that premium money will be released from year to year.

What about fraud and cheating?

As with any judging experience, there are no guarantees that work done at home is done exclusively by the 4-H member, with assistance from adults when safety is crucial. We believe our 4-H members and families to be trustworthy and will provide quality evidence of their own work efforts that follows all county and state guidelines.

Will my child still have the opportunity to talk with a judge about their project as part of the online show?

Technology access was a key consideration in how we chose a platform for online judging. Exhibits in FairEntry can be uploaded by both a smartphone and laptop. No live conference will be provided, as this dramatically increases the bandwidth and access needed to participate. Exhibitors will have the opportunity to respond to short narrative questions about their project when uploading exhibit photos/videos. Feedback from the judge will be entered into the system and forwarded to individual exhibitors as a follow up to the event.

The social aspect of summer judging events is one of the main things my kids look forward to. If all judging moves online, is there any way we can provide that experience in a new way?

When the Illinois Department of Public Health feels like large group and face-to-face gatherings are safe again, the State 4-H Office will convene the 4-H Youth Development Team to brainstorm new 4-H experiences that can bring our 4-H members and their supporters together for social gathering and showcase opportunities. Examples of those that have already been suggested included: County 4-H Celebration of Youth Day with youth presentations and displays, extended project workshops with experts, additional 4-H showcase days, and jackpot or pop-up shows.