



May 21, 2020

Adams County 4-H Family

The May 15th announcement from Purdue Extension giving Indiana counties the “green light” to proceed with July Purdue Extension events (including our beloved county fairs) brought much excitement to our community and especially with all of our youth who have experienced a great deal of challenges over the past several months. After weeks of cancellations and uncertainty with a variety of events, we look forward to the opportunity to highlight what our 4-H members have worked so hard to achieve, but please know that this opportunity comes with many health and safety considerations and restrictions that must be adhered to in order to participate.

Adams County 4-H Council and Adams County 4-H Fair Board have met several times discussing in great detail the possibilities and plans to move forward with planning of the 2020 Adams County 4-H Fair. After reviewing the Covid-19 safety precautions mandated from Purdue University along with Governor Holcomb’s Back on Track plan, weighing out our options and discussing the potential, we plan to move forward with in-person 4-H exhibits in July. But understand that exhibiting and the fair itself will not look the same as it has in the past. Along with the in-person Adams County 4-H Fair event, we will be conducting a virtual option for all youth, as mandated by Indiana 4-H. This is a great opportunity for those youth and families who do not feel safe in participating in the in-person event.

Lots of Rumors...What to Believe

Great place to start... Some of you may have seen or heard via social media or through contacts in other counties that not all Indiana counties will be proceeding with their county fair plans the same way. There are some counties that are currently making the decision to not permit in-person exhibition options, offering in-person with restrictions, and so on. Boy, I sure am being reminded that no matter what groups are deciding there are a lot of people with opinions and that it is impossible for everyone involved to be satisfied with the decisions made. While I try to avoid social media to stay away from the negativity and drama that adds stress and can simply steal the joy and energy required for me to keep my head in the game during this craziness, I found myself getting some of these posts and conversations sent to me. Wowzers, I have seen a great deal of very nasty opinions being expressed and I ask that all Adams County 4-H families do me a couple of favors:

1. Please do not assume that everything you see or hear is completely accurate.
2. Continue to hold yourself to the high standard that I do of you and do not feed into the bashing and negative comments towards the situations we are dealing with.
3. Reach out to me directly with any questions or concerns you may have.

Simple ways to keep up with Adams County 4-H program happenings:

1. Read this document entirely... re-read it and then keep it to refer back to when needed.
2. Please make sure to read items delivered to your mailbox via the US Post Office from us.
3. Become familiar with our website: extension.purdue.edu/adams
4. Make sure you follow Adams County 4-H on social media
5. Call or visit the Purdue Extension Office – Adams County.

Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 8AM to 4:30PM



Nitty Gritty of Adams County 4-H Fair

As mentioned earlier the Adams County 4-H Council has made the decision to do our very best to hold a live in-person fair for 2020. It is our goal to be able to provide youth with an opportunity to highlight their project work and to offer them the opportunity to exhibit their projects which we know they work so hard on. Although there will be many changes to ensure a safe experience for our youth, please know that we are working very hard to make it happen !!

Purdue Extension has many requirements for having a live fair that we are currently working through. We will also be working very closely with the Adams County Health Department to follow state and local guidelines, including complying with the Indiana's Back on Track plan. The live in-person Adams County 4-H Fair will go forward as long as the county continues to progress in the stages outlined by Governor Holcomb, we hope to stay on track and reach Stage 5 on or before July 4th in order to be able to proceed ahead. As long as we continue moving forward on track, here are the plans we will be seeing with the live in-person Adams County 4-H Fair.

1. In order to minimize the number of people on the grounds during fair, the Adams County 4-H Fair will not be open to the public and events will look a bit different. It is our hope to continue to provide a safe place for our 4-H'ers and their families.

- i. There will be no Parade or Commercial Vendors
- ii. 4-H Stage events will not be held, simply to decrease the number of people on the grounds. Creative ideas and plans are being considered now of how we will perform or honor those that would have been recognized at those stage events
Miss Adams County is seeking a venue and working on plans to safely continue
- iii. Dining Hall and Clover Center
 - Fair Board is working on securing a few local food trucks for each day and plans to have that yummy ice cream available through the Clover Center.

2. Mini 4-H

- i. Simply due to the sheer numbers of our Mini 4-H'ers and the amount of people that draws to our fair, there will be no live Mini 4-H exhibition in 2020.
We will be asking in the future for Mini 4-H Families to upload a picture of their youth with their project and tell us about your project so that a presentation can be completed and utilized in several locations.

3. Static Project Judging

- i. Project judging will be "closed judging", simply meaning the 4-Her will not be present during judging. However judges/superintendents will document comments on each project scorecard to accurately reflect judges' comments.
- ii. The official plan of how we will check-in projects, get those judged and then displayed all while keeping our families safe and following guidelines is being worked out now and will be available in the future.

4. Livestock Shows

- i. Livestock shows will be a "show & go" format. Which simply means that animals will come to the fairgrounds show ready and the look of the schedule for each show will be much like an open show where there is a set check-in time where animals will be weighed and verified, classes broken and we will roll right into the show. Those animals and families will all leave at the conclusion of the show or when they are done as there will be no animals overnight at the Adams County 4-H Fairgrounds this year.
- ii. Those families who can show off of the trailer will be encouraged to do that, however the barns will be open for youth pen/stall animals. It will be the responsibility of each family to clean up after themselves before leaving. Volunteers will then be sanitizing the fairgrounds each evening to reset for the next day.

Fair Schedule

I had hoped to include in this information the updated fair schedule, but all those details are not complete at this time. In my attempt to keep this as simple as possible, allow livestock committees the chance to develop a plan for each of their species including check-in times, etc. and for judges to be contacted and re-confirmed I will wait to send out this information in June.

When I say updated fair schedule, please don't be alarmed ! Obviously a few check-in times have to be tweaked and since livestock will not be coming in on Saturday like normal, we have to think about how to efficiently lay out each day for those shows to include check-in times, show times and time to clean/sanitize afterwards.

Fair Restrictions/Mandates due to COVID-19

There are a few restrictions and mandates that have to be put in place for us to successfully and safely put on the 2020 Adams County 4-H Fair; they include:

1. All 4-Hers, Adams County 4-H Volunteers and Extension staff **MUST** wear face coverings when engaged in 4-H activities at fair events. I understand this is not a fun or exciting idea; please know that I will be right there with each of you. I choose to look at this as it will be my gift for the youth I serve, I encourage everyone to join in on the fun and start picking out your fair face coverings in support of our 4-H youth.
2. Social distancing practices will need to be followed.
3. Daily health screening of employees and volunteers working on behalf of Purdue Extension.
4. Sanitation and disinfecting protocols will be put into place throughout the grounds.
5. Attendees at Adams County 4-H Fair events will need to be registered in the event that contact tracing needs to be done during or after the event.

June 1 4-H Deadline Reminders

Add or Drop Deadline Extended to June 1, 2020

Please continue to email or call us 260-724-5322 here in the next week if you wish to add or drop projects. All record sheets can be found online at extension.purdue.edu/Adams, once there click on "Youth" and "4-H County Projects".

Animal ID Deadline

The deadline for **animal species** to be identified in the 4HOnline system (or paper to the Extension Office for Rabbits) to be eligible for the Adams County 4-H Fair and the 4-H shows at the Indiana State Fair is now **June 1, 2020**. Adams County 4-H families.

Specific details for each livestock project were mailed to all youth enrolled in those projects, please continue to follow the protocols outlined in those packets. During this crazy time, there have been many changes but the information in those livestock letters were and still are accurate, please read.

Wow, I know... a lot of information

As stated before, this will be a year of flexibility and patience; we are truly operating in situations where we don't have all the answers. I ask that you please respect that and go with the flow. When we have the answers, we will get them to you. I expect that you won't want to miss the next 4-H Newsletter as more details will be ironed out there. Friends, I simply ask that you continue to be kind as we move through this, we will together make this amazing!

Adams County 4-H Families are Resilient, Creative and Strong.... **4-H Strong !**

Amy Rumschlag

Amy Rumschlag - Extension Educator, 4-H Youth Development