

**June 5, 2020**

Good afternoon 4-H families,

Thank you for your patience and flexibility as the 4-H Incorporated board and the Purdue Extension office has been working diligently to figure out details regarding the 2020 Montgomery County 4-H Fair. On behalf of the 4-H Incorporated board, we are pleased to announce that the 2020 Montgomery County 4-H Fair will be a live, in-person 4-H fair. Any 4-H member with concerns of coming to the fair but still wishes to exhibit, will have the option to submit projects virtually.

We want to provide you with a rough schedule outline so 4-H families can prepare so please be patient as we work out the finer details. Please know that we will be ready to move to a virtual fair should a COVID-19 outbreak occur or Montgomery County has not reached stage 5 in Governor Holcomb's Indiana "Back on Track" plan by July 4th. More details about virtual exhibit will be coming.

While we are planning for an in-person 4-H fair, this fair will look very different and will primarily focus on providing 4-H youth with the opportunity for an exhibition activity. The 4-H fair will follow Purdue University requirements, CDC guidance, local Health Department guidance, and Indiana's "Back on Track" plan.

Please know that the following decisions were not taken lightly. All those involved in the decision-making process considered the core purpose for the 4-H fair while conducting the decision-making process.

The following are key bullet points related to the 4-H schedule:

- July 17-23 will continue to be the dates for the Montgomery County 4-H Fair. However, some events that typically occur during this timeframe may be rearranged to accommodate social distancing.
- With guidance from the Montgomery County Health Department, the 4-H Fair will be conducted as a private event. We ask that each family limit attendance at the fair to only parents/guardians and 4-H members. In order to limit the number of people at the fair, we ask that if a member of the family can stay home, please do so.
- There will be no food vendors or special events. Again, our focus is on the 4-H youth and celebrating what they have learned throughout the last year.
- Please see the attached "2020 4-H Fair Calendar" for an update on dates and times for 4-H shows and events. Keep in mind that this is a very fluid situation and all times are subject to change.
- We are still working on details for the Dog Show, Tractor Driving, and Overall Showmanship and will notify you when those details are decided.



- All 4-H building projects will be checked in and out via a drive-thru on their scheduled days. However, check-in and check-out times will be extended, with pre-registration required, to ensure that we are spacing out how many 4-H families are coming at one time.
- All project judging will be done in a “closed” format rather than our traditional open judging format. New details will be sent directly to all members who are exhibiting a building project with instructions for checking in and out projects.
- 4-H building projects will not be displayed in the buildings for 2020 but instead pictures and results will be posted throughout the week of the 4-H Fair on the *Montgomery County 4-H* Facebook page.
- No livestock will be penned overnight, meaning all livestock will arrive, be exhibited and go home on the same day. Shows will be streamlined such that there will be no night shows.
- All 4-Hers, 4-H volunteers and staff must wear face coverings when engaged in 4-H activities at fair events. Face coverings must be worn when social distancing cannot be achieved. 4-H members will need to be prepared to wear them while exhibiting livestock. Social distancing and contact tracing will also be required. Therefore, limits will be placed on the number of individuals allowed in the Arena at one time and no seating will be provided at any 4-H event.
- Our hope is that all 4-H livestock shows, events, and results will be live streamed and posted to the *Montgomery County 4-H* Facebook page.
- There will be no live Foods auction and 4-H livestock auction in 2020, however the 4-H Incorporated board is currently looking at alternative solutions.

The Purdue Extension-Montgomery County staff and the 4-H Incorporated board are working diligently to make an in-person 4-H fair possible. While not everyone may agree with the decisions, let’s celebrate the fact that these 4-H youth can at least participate via in-person competition to share and learn. Every year, 4-H builds life skills providing challenges to overcome and achieve. This year is an excellent opportunity teach youth to persevere in tough times.

Sincerely,

Abby Morgan

Abby Morgan
4-H Youth Development Extension Educator
Purdue Extension Montgomery County