



FOR RELEASE VIA 4-HONLINE AT 4:30PM EASTERN, MAY 15, 2020;
REPLY TO EMAIL ADDRESS: CASEY.MULL.PURDUE@GMAIL.COM

4-H Families and Volunteers:

As Purdue Extension makes decisions regarding its meeting and event policies, the public health and safety of its faculty, staff, students, volunteers and guests will be first priority. Indiana's Back on Track plan, announced on May 1, 2020, is a detailed process to reopen the state of Indiana contingent on the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic in Indiana. Purdue Extension will comply with all federal, state, and local regulations and public safety guidelines, as well as Purdue University policies for public health and safety.

Purdue Extension will continue its current policy of no in-person events through June 30, 2020. Starting July 1, 2020, Purdue Extension will permit in-person events that comply with Indiana's Back on Track plan <https://www.backontrack.in.gov/>.

Under this plan, each stage defines restrictions on in-person meetings and events. Individual counties graduate through stages based on local public health and safety conditions. Although in-person events may be held at various stages, Purdue Extension strongly encourages virtual events. Virtual options will be available to empower our most at-risk populations to participate in and attend our meetings and events while protecting their health and safety.

Large events with more than 250 participants, such as farm field days or 4-H events at county fairs, can only be held when the county has reached Stage 5 as defined by the Back on Track Indiana roadmap. Such events must comply with social distancing guidelines, daily screening of employees and volunteers working on behalf of Purdue Extension/4-H, and other health and safety restrictions. It is expected that planning for these in-person events will present unique challenges given Back on Track guidance and uncertainty regarding the status of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local county extension educators will have more details regarding the planning of meetings and events in your community. Know that your county extension office will reach out to you when those plans have been finalized. **Please give your county extension staff the time needed to work with their 4-H Council and/or 4-H fair board regarding plans for your local community.**

To summarize:

- Today through June 30, 2020: In-person Extension events and meetings are prohibited.
- Starting July 1, 2020: Purdue Extension will follow state and local public health and safety guidelines regarding meetings and events. The ability to host meetings and events will depend on each county's status related to the Back on Track Indiana plan, as well as local public health and safety requirements. All meetings and events must comply with social distancing, screening and other health and safety restrictions as required by Gov. Holcomb.



- Large in-person events with more than 250 people, such as county 4-H fairs, may be held when a county has reached Stage 5 as defined by the Back on Track Indiana roadmap. Such events must comply with social distancing and other public health and safety requirements. According to the Back on Track plan, the earliest this could occur is July 4, 2020.

Events will look different this summer. Counties may choose to host their 4-H fairs as virtual experiences. County fairs may limit the number of attendees to meet social distancing requirements. Appropriate sanitation and safety restrictions will be abundant. Whether your county chooses to host a face-to-face fair or to virtualize the fair experience, all 4-H'ers will have the opportunity to demonstrate their learning this summer. We look forward to seeing the growth, grit, and determination of the youth of Indiana.

Sincerely,

Jason Henderson, Director of Extension

Casey Mull, Assistant Director of Extension, 4-H Youth Development Program Leader