



4-H Fair Exhibition Social Distancing Requirements and Considerations

Fairs provide an opportunity for youth to demonstrate skills learned by participating in county and state sponsored 4-H youth development events and experiences. It is Purdue Extension's expectation to provide a culminating experience that allows youth to exhibit their 4-H project, have it evaluated, and their work be displayed as part of their educational experience. In some communities in 2020 this means a fair similar to what many people are accustomed. However, COVID-19 conditions in other communities will require a virtual fair, or cause an in-person fair to be postponed. Even if a fair is able to occur as an in-person large event, it will look different than in previous years. Further, a virtual exhibition option must be made available for any family quarantined by local health department officials or those who choose to minimize exposure to family members by not attending large events.

These requirements and considerations are specific to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines and should supplement a fair's existing emergency management plan. Fair officials are to adhere to local health department guidelines that may be more stringent in some communities.

4-H Animal Exhibits and Shows

In-person 4-H Animal Shows for 2020 must be conducted in a show and go format. Animals will not stay on the fairgrounds overnight. This is a concept utilized in various large open shows throughout the state. Shows can occur in a quick turnaround process. The key to success is to be prepared well ahead of the day of exhibition. 2020 is the year to take full advantage of the FairEntry system and all of its capabilities.

Virtual 4-H Animal exhibitions and delays of animal exhibitions to a time when COVID-19 restrictions have been relaxed are also options for animal exhibitions in 2020.

The following are guidelines related to in-person show and go 4-H Animal Shows:

Planning:

- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer and 4-H'er.
- Update schedule to create show and go format for all 4-H Animal Shows.
- Determine proper spacing requirements in barns for those exhibitors that do not have the option to show off the trailer. Social distancing requirements must be enforced for penning/ stalling.
- Determine where trailers can be placed during the shows.
- Devise traffic patterns and traffic schedule with all fair authorities and local law enforcement.
- Youth should practice with their animals while wearing face coverings. It is important animals are used to the concept.
- Have only the number of people required to get the job done.
- Constantly remind people about social distancing practices with signage and announcements.
- Use disinfecting wipes or spray to clean all surfaces frequently.
- Keep a sign-in record log of everyone present.
- Hand sanitizer should be placed at all entry and exit points in barns, show arena, wash racks, and scales.

- Develop a communication plan for all 4-H Animal Shows to be shared with 4-H members, families, fair boards, 4-H Councils, and necessary personnel.

Pre-fair:

- Collect information to see how many exhibitors have the capability of showing off their trailer. This information can be set-up in FairEntry.
- All entries should be preregistered utilizing the FairEntry system to expedite the check in process and get the show moving in an efficient manner.
- Communicate show plans and expectations to volunteers, youth, and families ahead of the event.
- Communicate show plans and expectations to judges. Make sure they are aware of the time frame in which the event must occur.
- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer, and 4-H'er.
- Use disinfecting wipes or spray to clean all surfaces, shared tools and equipment.
- Have a first aid kit on-hand.
- Pens should be assigned for youth needing those accommodations for the event.

Arrival/ During the Event:

- Steps should be taken at home to make sure animals are as show ready as possible upon arrival.
- Purdue Extension ***strongly encourages*** the use of a no fit show for the health and safety of the animals and the participants for 2020.
- Have only the number of employees, volunteers and judges required to get the job done.
- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer, and 4-H'er.
- Check in process: Show staff should go around to youth trailers, pens, stalls etc. to check animal identification information. Staff should use hand sanitizer and sanitize equipment between every check in.
- If you have tablets or computers for youth to check in, they should be sanitized between uses.
- Declared weight methods should be used when possible. If scales are open for youth to use who do not have access to them at home, then you must have a sanitation plan in place.
- Wash Racks- Space out and close pens to avoid youth comingling. Time limits should be set. Sanitation policies should be enforced for wash racks (wiping down nozzles, gates, tie rings etc.). Youth should be encouraged to bring their own hoses, but in the event they borrow hoses, they should be wiped down and sanitized between uses.
- Classes should be organized to allow for proper social distancing in the show arena. Limit class numbers to meet requirements.
- Have a first aid kit on-hand.

Judging:

- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer, and 4-H'er.
- Youth's presentation of animals should follow social distancing methods. Consider changing line up and penning methods to maintain 6 feet between each participant.
- Limit the number of people in the arena. A 4-H member and 1 adult should be the standard protocol in the makeup arena for larger species, or those 4-H members that might need necessary safety assistance.
- Show programs should be available virtually. Hard copies should only be made for show personnel and posting purposes.
- Shows should be broadcast using Facebook Live (or similar platform) and limit the number of audience spectators in the arena to comply with social distancing guidelines.
- Any table or surface being used should be sanitized in between classes (i.e. – cat and rabbits) .

- The microphone should be sanitized between uses.
- Pens should be sanitized between classes.
- Judges should not shake the hands of participants. This should be communicated to youth as well, so they are not shaking the hand of the judge or fellow participants. A nice head nod or air high five could be an example of acknowledgment.
- Youth should use hand sanitizer after exiting the ring.
- Awards presentations should be as contactless as possible.

Release

- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer, and 4-H'er.
- When youth are done exhibiting, if pens are used, the 4-H members should clean and sanitize them after use.
- Sanitize all points of contact that were touched during each event.

Contact Courtney Stierwalt, 4-H Youth Development Extension Specialist, for additional guidance regarding animal exhibits and shows. dickerso@purdue.edu or 765-494-8435

Non-Animal Exhibits and Static Displays

Virtual 4-H Non-Animal exhibitions and static displays, or delays of these exhibitions to a time when COVID-19 restrictions have been relaxed, are also options for these project areas in 2020.

The following are guidelines related to in-person non-animal exhibits and static displays:

Building and Equipment Set-Up

- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer, and 4-H'er.
- Have only the number of people required to get the job done.
- Constantly remind people about social distancing practices.
- Use disinfecting wipes or spray to clean all surfaces.
- Use a disinfecting wipe to clean all hand tools prior to sharing with another individual.
- Have a first aid kit on-hand.
- Keep a sign-in record log of everyone present.

Exhibitor Check-In and Judging

- Make hand sanitizer available at each building entrance and exit door, check-in station, and judging station.
- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer, and 4-H'er.
- Have only the number of employees, volunteers and judges required to get the job done.
- Reduce the number of check-in stations.
- Assign entrance and exit only doors and have them well marked with signage.
- Display signage reminding people to follow social distancing practices.
- Using disinfecting wipes or spray to clean the table surface after each exhibitor completes the check-in process.
- How will social distancing be implemented at each check-in station?
- While conference/open judging is preferred, is it required? Can judges evaluate exhibits without the 4-H member being present?
- If a conference/open judging format is used, how will social distancing be implemented? Use disinfecting wipes to clean the table after every person talks with the judge.
- Keep a sign-in record log of everyone present. This could be at each entrance door or check-in station.
- Provide each person with their own pencil or pen to prevent sharing.
- Can the exhibitor set their exhibit in place for display and judging, limiting the number of people touching that exhibit?
- Create one-way aisles.
- Consider using Sign-Up Genius or a similar platform to have exhibitors schedule their check-in time.
- Limit the number of lines people stand in inside the building.
- Assign someone to the entrance counting the number of people entering. Once the maximum number of people are inside the building based on CDC guidance of one person per 6 feet, a line will need to form outside the building. Another person will need to be assigned to the exit door to count people leaving the building. For example, as ten people leave, that is communicated to the entrance door controller to let ten more people enter the building. Weatherproof signage will need to be prominently displayed reminding people to follow social distancing guidelines. Stands linked with rope or similar material should be considered to safely form an entrance line, like those used at an amusement park, zoo, or airport security checkpoint.
- Assign someone to keep people moving so they are not congregating in small groups.
- Have a first aid kit on-hand.

Display Set-Up for Public Viewing

- Are exhibits required to be on display multiple days? Can an exhibit be entered, judged, then released? Can projects be assigned a certain day so exhibits are entered and judged in the morning, displayed to the public throughout the day, and released that evening/night?
- Make hand sanitizer available at various locations throughout the building.
- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer, and 4-H'er.
- Have only the number of employees and volunteers required to get the job done.
- Reduce the number of times exhibits are touched or moved.
- Constantly remind everyone to practice social distancing.
- Use disinfecting wipes or spray to clean all surfaces before the building opens to the public.
- Have a first aid kit on-hand.
- Keep a sign-in record log of everyone present.

Opening to Public

- Make hand sanitizer available at each entrance and at various locations throughout the building.
- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer, and 4-H'er.
- Have only the number of employees and volunteers required to get the job done.
- Assign someone to the entrance counting the number of people entering. Once the maximum number of people are inside the building based on CDC guidance of one person per 6 feet, a line will need to form outside the building. Another person will need to be assigned to the exit door to count people leaving the building. For example, as ten people leave, that is communicated to the entrance door controller to let ten more people enter the building. Weatherproof signage will need to be prominently displayed reminding people to follow social distancing guidelines. Stands linked with rope or similar material should be considered to safely form an entrance line, like those used at an amusement park, zoo, or airport security checkpoint.
- Create one-way aisles.
- Display signage reminding people to practice social distancing.
- Regularly clean surfaces with disinfectant wipes or spray.
- Adjust open hours to disperse the volume of people wanting in the building at the same time.
- Have a first aid kit on-hand.
- Keep a sign-in record log of everyone present.

Exhibit Check-out/Release

- Make hand sanitizer available at each building entrance and exit door and check-out station.
- Require face covering be worn by every employee, volunteer, and 4-H'er.
- Have only the number of employees and volunteers required to get the job done.
- Reduce the number of check-out stations.
- Assign entrance and exit only doors and have them well marked with signage.
- Display signage reminding people to follow social distancing practices.
- Using disinfecting wipes or spray to clean the table surface after each exhibitor completes the check-out process.
- How will social distancing be implemented at each check-out station?
- Keep a sign-in record log of everyone present. This could be at each entrance door or check-out station.
- Provide each person with their own pencil or pen to prevent sharing.
- Create one-way aisles.
- Limit the number of lines people stand in inside the building.

- Assign someone to the entrance counting the number of people entering. Once the maximum number of people are inside the building based on CDC guidance of one person per 6 feet, a line will need to form outside the building. Another person will need to be assigned to the exit door to count people leaving the building. For example, as ten people leave, that is communicated to the entrance door controller to let ten more people enter the building. Weatherproof signage will need to be prominently displayed reminding people to follow social distancing guidelines. Stands linked with rope or similar material should be considered to safely form an entrance line, like those used at an amusement park, zoo, or airport security checkpoint.
- Assign someone to keep people moving so they are not congregating in small groups.
- Have a first aid kit on-hand.

Contact Tony Carrell, 4-H Youth Development Extension Specialist, for additional guidance regarding non-animal exhibits and displays. tcarrell@purdue.edu or 765-494-8435