OFFICE CLOSED EFFECTIVE MARCH 19

Governor DeWine recently issued a state of emergency and implemented a variety of strategies to reduce the spread of the disease. In order to do our part in reducing risk to our employees or clientele, we have implemented a teleworking plan. OSU Extension offices will be closed to the public until further notice. While our offices will be physically closed, we are committed to continuing to conduct our work as fully as possible. In recent years, we’ve invested in the technology needed to facilitate effective teleworking. We will utilize all our teleworking capabilities to continue serving our clientele and communities. You should continue to feel free to call, email, etc. with any OSU Extension staff member as you normally would.

OSU Extension is deeply committed to the health and well-being of its staff and doing our part to help slow the spread of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19).

If you have questions, please feel free to contact our office at 740-852-0975.

To reiterate: Starting THURSDAY, MARCH 19, the Madison County Extension Office will be CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. Please contact us via phone or email with any questions. We are here to serve you even though we will not physically be in the office.

It has been a quite a week with changes coming quickly. Thank you for your patience with your county 4-H staff, the state 4-H office and OSU Extension. I know you have many questions:

- When can we have club meetings?
- Will there be summer camp?
- Should we invest in projects?
- What about fair?

The answer is at this point, we just don’t know. It is all changing rapidly. But what we do know for sure is that we’re committed to doing our part to help prevent the spread of the corona virus. We also know that when we choose to act together, we can have incredible positive impacts. The actions we’ve taken so far are in alignment with necessary precautions recommended by the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Ohio Department of Health. These are in place to help keep us all from getting, or unintentionally spreading, this virus.

To help clarify, we are asking that ALL 4-H events, programs, and activities scheduled between now and April 20 be held virtually, postponed, or cancelled.

For our livestock project members and families, Ohio 4-H and the Ohio Department of Agriculture discussed some changes for this year that will help mitigate the effects the corona virus is having on holding in-person programming. For livestock quality assurance (QA) for the 2020 year only:

- QA must still be completed before the opening day of exhibition, however the 45-day prior to the opening of the exhibition requirement will not be enforced.
- Youth livestock exhibitors (8-18) may take the online YQCA certification (contact our office for more information)
- Test out options for ages 12-14 and 15-18 are currently available to schedule after April 20 by appointment only. Please note that they may need to be postponed as we get more information.
- *Our office will work to reschedule QA options once we know more information. Stay tuned.

Livestock Ownership deadlines: As of now, the ODA still requires that all market livestock projects be in your possession by May 1st for Madison County (market goats, sheep, hogs). Market broiler orders are still due April 15 via the online order form with pick up on May 21st from 2-6pm.
ENROLLMENT UPDATE
If you have not enrolled yet, please do so ASAP! Oh.4honline.com will remain open through Friday, March 20. If you are having issues, please call our office or email us so we can help you! Visit go.osu.edu/JoinMadCo4H for info.

PROJECT BOOKS
Our office will be open through 5pm on Wednesday, March 18 for you to order books. Please contact us ahead of time so we can get them ready for you! After the 18th, you can purchase books online via https://extensionpubs.osu.edu/ and have them shipped to you!

CLUB ACTIVITY FEES, CLUB FORMS AND PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE FORMS
Please mail your 4-H Club activity fee form and check to the Madison County 4-H Committee at PO Box 893, London, Ohio 43140 by March 31st. Please hold all other forms until further notice. The due date will not be enforced. You can scan or email items to duffey.2@osu.edu or nicol.115@osu.edu if you wish. Otherwise, keep them in a safe place.

MADISON COUNTY 4-H SCHEDULE UPDATES:

• **Club Meetings:** All club meetings, fundraisers, community service, etc. should be help virtually, postponed, or canceled from March 12 through at least April 20
  - The 6 meeting per Club requirements are still in place. You can include meetings through December 31, 2020
  - Frances will be contacting each organizational advisor in the coming weeks to create a plan for each 4-H club
  - Some options for virtual meetings include: ZOOM, Google Hangout, Big Blue Button, Go 2 Meeting, or even Facebook live updates! Contact Frances to learn more.
  - The deadline for **club activity fees** is March 31st. Please send to the Madison County 4-H Committee at PO Box 893, London, Ohio 43140
• ASE Hosted Quality Assurance – March 19 – CANCELLED (registrants should have received notification from ASE)
• Sewing Fabric Clinic at Jo-Ann’s - March 19 – POSTPONED (date TBD)
• Poultry Clinic - March 29 — VIRTUAL/RECORDED MEETING (Details will be sent to poultry exhibitors)
• Shooting Sports Safety Meeting - March 31 — CANCELLED (Shooting sports project members will receive safety instruction from their individual discipline instructors the first time they meet with them as we have done in the past – after April 20)
• **Junior Fair Board Meeting – April 1 – VIRTUAL** (members should have received a link)
• **Camp Counselor Meeting – April 8 - VIRTUAL** (counselors will receive a link to join Zoom)
• **Heritage Show Ring Success Seminar and Quality Assurance– April 11 - CANCELLED**
• **Quality Assurance – April 14-16 - POSTPONED**
• Pizza Kit Orders – Due April 16th (as scheduled – deliver is week of May 4)
• Poultry Broiler Orders due online by April 15th
  - Mail payment by check to (payable to OSUE), Madison County Extension Office, 217 Elm Street, London, Ohio 43140
• Camp Counselor Meeting – April 22 – as scheduled, watch for updates

*Please note – It is up to the Senior Fair Board to make the determination for fair-related activities and committees.

Please reach out to me if you have any questions. I’d like to remain as transparent as possible. You can call the office at 740-852-0975 or send me an email at nicol.115@osu.edu. You can also call my direct line at 740-956-5048! I will stay in touch with everyone through email and Facebook as we keep the wheels of the 4-H train moving forward. Thank you for your patience!

Sincerely,

Frances Nicol
Extension Educator
4-H Youth Development