

9 June 2020 – Public Message

Title: Decision made regarding 2020 Madison County Fair

Madison County Fair Options Committee was formed in early May to evaluate possible alternatives for Madison County's 2020 fair due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This committee was comprised of Madison County Fair Board members and Madison County Extension and Outreach staff. Hours of careful consideration went into determining opportunities that would safely meet the inherent expressed purpose of our mission statement, the needs of fair families, and public health guidelines.

While addressing this important issue, one portion of Madison County Fair's mission statement stood out to committee members. The words "To provide opportunities for 4-H'ers, FFA members, youth and adults of Madison County to showcase their accomplishments and talents in a safe family atmosphere" impacted committee representatives most. This was reiterated as we heard from fair families via an emailed survey. Input from the majority of 4-H and FFA families made it clear. They want to participate in a 2020 fair of some form. Madison County Public Health reviewed our options, provided consultation and recommended guidelines.

After much thought and deliberation, a decision has been made regarding the 2020 Madison County Fair. This year's fair will look different. The fair is limited to 4H/FFA members, families, staff and volunteers for exhibition of 4H/FFA projects.

- The following 4H/FFA events will take place: Communications, clothing, dog, static, horse, goat, dairy cattle, cat, poultry, beef, rabbit, swine, sheep, King and Queen contest and exhibitor market animal auction.
- Livestock will have the option to come the day of show or stall on grounds during the fair.
- Reserved and exhibitor camping will be allowed.
- The following entertainment venues are cancelled: All night shows of truck/tractor pull, rodeo, mud runs, and all other entertainment.
- The following open shows are cancelled: Pet shows, bottle calf, kid goat, llama/alpaca, carcass contests (beef, goat, swine) and draft horse show.
- Other cancelled events include (but are not limited to): Bill Riley Talent Contest, Bacon Buddies, celebrity swine show, Farm Bureau cookout contest, livestock judging, horseshoe and archery tournaments, kiddie tractor pull, remote control demo derby; all vendors (including varied industries and outside spaces).

As further details are defined, we will communicate via madisoncountyfair.net and through Madison County Extension and Outreach. Over the next few weeks, we will meet with critical volunteers, such as fair superintendents and non-profit food vendors to work out structured plans. All plans will comply with state and local public health guidelines.

This version of Madison County Fair would not be possible without generous support of our Madison County Fair Partners. Our fair partners have offered continued and unwavering support this year, as in previous years. Thank you to our fair goers, exhibitors and volunteers for your patience and

understanding while awaiting this announcement. Thank you in advance for your continued patience as additional specifics are outlined. We appreciate your passion for the Madison County Fair, and we are excited to host a 2020 4H/FFA Exhibition with your help and support.

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