

Crook County 4-H/FFA Livestock Exhibitors and Families,

First and foremost, we hope that you are doing well. Clearly there have been a lot of changes to the regular 4-H and FFA programming, but your health is foremost in these decisions, made at levels higher than those of us here in Crook County.

With everything COVID-19, there is great uncertainty. It seems that the certain things we have are constantly disappointing in nature. Loss of the school year, spring athletics, rodeos, plays, prom, graduation...the list goes on. All these things have been "punches to the gut" for our youth and families. We've seen families lose their jobs, at least temporarily, store shelves emptied, and have not been able to gather with each other to work through all of this together. The last month has been incredibly difficult, and we know that it is going to continue for some time.

So, what do we have to look forward to at this point? Well, we know the future is uncertain, and we wish that we could say that everything from May on would be locked in as a "go". Many of the decisions on future events will again be made by entities above the 4-H and FFA program, just as the previous decisions have been. At this point, what we can say is this:

1. The Spring Animal Weigh In will be held on May 13th, pending an extension of the statewide rules on gathering, or decision on the sale committee.
2. The Crook County Fair is scheduled to happen, and at this time, there are no plans to cancel it.

We have fielded many questions about the fair, and specifically if it is happening. The answer that we have is "Yes", based on the most current information. We are planning as if it is going to. Do we have contingency plans for it if it does not? We are working on that. Please know that we are just as concerned as everyone and have the same questions. Unfortunately, we are waiting for answers just as you are. So, we plan to move forward and suggest that you do as well.

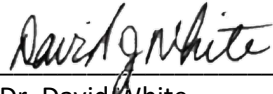
Planning forward is difficult when you don't have the answers. Here is some guidance from us to you in these uncertain times. We put this out knowing that you have invested much money and time into your projects.

1. Remember the reasons as to why you do this project. We believe that we know, but only you and your family truly knows why you are involved in this activity.
2. Talk as a family and make decisions that are best for you and yours given the known information that we have. We know that everyone wants to continue. We also know the level of investment that is in your project and the financial risk that comes with a possible decision later in the future that could impact fair. Only you can weigh that risk.
3. Given the fair happens as it normally would, be aware of the current situation and how it is affecting the people in our community. Recognize that many people/businesses are hurting. It would be unrealistic to believe that a sale at fair this year would be what we have experienced in the past. We know that our community will support you to the best of their ability. We hope that you know that also.
4. Support the businesses in this community the best that you can. Let them know that you are with them through these times.

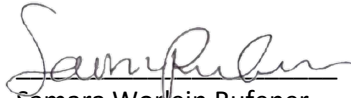
None of us want to be in this place right now. Here we are though. You've lost so much, and the thought of losing more is not one any of us want to have. We need to hold tight to what we do know,

and the reasons why we do this. We need to look to our families and those that support us. We are here to help you to the extent that we can. Know that we will pass on any information that we have that impacts you and your projects.

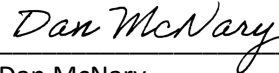
Sincerely,



Dr. David White
Interim Crook County
4-H Educator



Samara Worlein Rufener
Crook County 4-H
Program Coordinator



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Crook County
FFA Advisor