

March 19, 2020

Good Day Ellis County 4-H families,

We realize that there are lots of questions out there concerning livestock projects in 4-H for this season. We want to communicate with you what we know as of today so that you can make the most informed decisions for your family's involvement in these projects.

COVID-19 best management practices and restrictions continue to develop and will continue to evolve and impact our local 4-H program – as well as state 4-H events. While it is changing the way we have done things, your local Extension team is confident our community will be able to make the best of this situation and continue to protect the health and safety of those involved.

As of today, we will not be able to host any Extension-sponsored event including all 4-H programming by employees and volunteers, face-to-face workshops, shows, activities or any events through May 16.

It's important to know restrictions through May 16 won't change, and we could possibly be looking at restrictions beyond. This means that spring livestock shows may be cancelled at least through May 16 (shows not sponsored / supported by Extension will be regulated by their respective local governments.) We share this information so that you know your spring show opportunities may be affected. For the status of our local spring livestock shows, look for updates on their facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ncklc/>

This could potentially carry further into summer show months, and possibly county fairs. Please do not panic about our county fair, but please be aware we will follow Federal, State, Kansas State University, K-State Research and Extension and Ellis county governance over all activities, no different than we have in the past.

To comply with current restrictions, we will NOT hold our regular countywide face-to-face spring livestock weigh-in event. **The 4-H Ag Livestock committee met earlier this week and have decided to extend the ownership and identification date for animals showing in Ellis County to June 1.** They approved moving to a photo id process for all species, like we've done for bucket calves and commercial heifers in the past. You will purchase your tags as usual (**Please call ahead to make sure we are open or to schedule a time to stop by**) and will take a photo of the animal, with its tag number visible and print it out, placing it on the specific form and returning it to our office by June 1. Forms are located on the [Forms page](#) of the Ellis County 4-H website.

Any Ellis County 4-H'er wishing to nominate livestock projects for the Kansas State Fair or Kansas Junior Livestock Show will need to **make individual appointments with Stacy and / or Susan to still have these animals visually tag verified** by the state nomination deadlines. Please email [sschlich@ksu.edu](mailto:sschlich@ksu.edu) or [scampbel@ksu.edu](mailto:scampbel@ksu.edu) to make us aware of your intentions, and we will stay in contact with you to meet the state tagging/nomination requirements. Those deadlines remain the same – Market Beef nominations due **May 1** and commercial heifers, market hogs, meat goats, market lambs and commercial ewes **June 15**.

We will continue to do [Horse nominations](#) as in the past, due **May 1**. If our office is closed, please leave forms in the drop box on the front of our office. We will check the drop box periodically and sign and return your documents by mail.

#### **YQCA – POSTPONED**

4-H Ag Livestock voted to NOT make this training a requirement for the 2020 show year if you are only participating in local shows. **If you are planning to participate in a state livestock show – KSF or KJLS, you will need to complete the YQCA certification by June 1.** If you registered on-line for this course that was supposed to be held March 23, go on-line and cancel your registration for the face-to-face training. The company will refund your payment. If we are able, we will try to reschedule the face-to-face training for the last two weeks in May. If you'd like to get it taken care of on-line, visit <http://yqca.org>



## NEW IN 2020 – Market Beef Ultrasound Carcass Evaluation

4-H Ag Livestock approved the inclusion of an ultrasound carcass evaluation at this year's Ellis County Fair. It is an option for any market beef animal born after January 1, 2019. Animals will be scanned as they weigh-in at the beginning of the fair. You will pre-enter your participation as you complete the 4-H livestock entry process for the fair. There will be an award for champion and reserve champion ultrasound market beef animals in 2020.

## Livestock Judging Contest Superintendents Needed

We are seeking a team of volunteers to organize and carry out this year's 4-H Livestock Judging contest at the Ellis County Fair. The 4-H Ag Livestock committee voted to make livestock participation in the contest optional this year. We will ask for permission to use your animals in the livestock judging contest as you complete the 4-H livestock entry process for the fair. If you are willing to help organize this event at the upcoming fair, please contact Stacy or Susan.

## Showmanship Age Changes

The 4-H Ag Livestock committee voted to change the livestock showmanship age divisions to:

Junior 7 – 10 years

Intermediate – 11 – 13 years

Senior – 14 & older

Finally, the 4-H Ag Livestock committee revised the [livestock identification](#) sheet to include guidelines for identifying dairy goat projects and updated the poultry process to include the change in Pollurum testing for 2020. Look for the revisions on the [Ellis Co. 4-H website](#).

We know many families are purchasing animals in the next few weeks, or they have already made purchases. We wish we had a crystal ball and could tell you how everything will work out. We will communicate with you as we learn new information about future activities.

We look forward to working with you as we get ready for summer activities! As always, if you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us at our office number or through our email addresses. Watch our [website](#) and Ellis County 4-H Facebook page for latest changes in office open hours and ways to best connect with us.

These are uncertain times, but we know that if we work together and support one another through this, it will make our 4-H family stronger in the long run.

Yours in 4-H,

Susan Schlichting  
District Extension Agent  
4-H Youth Development

Stacy Campbell  
District Extension Agent  
Agriculture

Cottonwood Extension District

Kansas State University  
Agricultural Experiment Station  
and Cooperative Extension  
Service

K-State, County Extension  
Councils, Extension Districts,  
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