



## Michigan 4-H Programming Recommendations with Consideration of Fair Partners

*Prepared by Michigan State University Extension at the request of the Michigan Association of Fairs and Exhibitions. This guidance is current as of April 24, 2020.*

### Background

MSU Extension understands the importance of local fairs to countless Michiganders. Fair boards and fair management have been long-standing partners with our local 4-H programs, and we look forward to building on those relationships in new and exciting ways.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, MSU Extension and our 4-H staff members are dedicated to creating numerous virtual opportunities so youth can continue learning and developing their 4-H projects in a safe environment. This includes helping design online fair experiences that can be adapted to local situations and traditions. MSU Extension's first priority is the health and safety of 4-H youth and their families, staff members and their families, and the communities where we live and work. Therefore, using guidance from the university, and the most current science available, we have modified, postponed or canceled all in-person events until AT LEAST September 1, 2020.

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### **Is there a possibility to revisit the timing?**

- No. MSU Extension leadership did not come to this decision lightly. Many factors were taken into consideration, and though heartbreaking, we stand behind the decision to modify, cancel or postpone all Michigan 4-H in-person events until after September 1, 2020 to ensure the safety of our participants, volunteers and staff.

#### **Will MSU Extension consider making county-by-county decisions?**

- No. MSU Extension can best support all county fairs by focusing on creating the most comprehensive virtual experience possible.

#### **If a fair continues to plan for an in-person fair, can they still use 4-H in their name?**

- 4-H can be used in the name of a fair if it has been previously documented as part of the fair's identity. However, 4-H may not be used in youth shows and classes, and 4-H membership cannot be a requirement for participation.

#### **May the fair still use the 4-H name and emblem on signs and other fixtures currently in place on the fairgrounds?**

- Permanent signage on the grounds may stay without alteration (i.e., they do not need to be removed or covered). New signage that indicates 4-H participation or 4-H organized efforts should not be installed. Temporary signage carrying the 4-H emblem that is only installed for fair purposes cannot be used.

**To contact an expert in your area, visit [extension.msu.edu/experts](http://extension.msu.edu/experts) or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464)**



For additional information, visit [extension.msu.edu](https://extension.msu.edu)

**Do you have guidelines for revising fair books that contain the 4-H name and emblem?**

- Fair books that have already been produced do not need to be reprinted; however, clarification should be made to exhibitors. 4-H cannot be used in conjunction with in-person judging, classes or livestock auctions, and MSU Extension staff members cannot take part in in-person activities.

**What are the repercussions/potential legal actions against a fair that uses the 4-H emblem as it historically has?**

- The 4-H name and emblem may still be used on permanent signage and in the fair name as appropriate, (see previous statement).

**May fair partners use 4-H equipment (e.g., gates, scales, horse jumps, computer hardware and software) to support an in-person youth fair?**

- No. MSU Extension does not support the use of equipment that belongs to Michigan 4-H at in-person fair activities until after September 1, 2020.

**May 4-H clubs host booths or other activities during the fair?**

- No. 4-H in-person programs or activities may not occur until September 1, 2020.

**May fair leadership organize youth exhibits or other in-person fair activities by a 4-H club?**

- Fair management can organize exhibits at their discretion.

**May MSU Extension staff and volunteers partner and collaborate with the fair to prepare for a virtual experience?**

- Yes, MSU Extension is happy to help fair leadership create a virtual fair.

**Can MSU Extension staff members and volunteers partner and assist fair partners who are planning an in-person experience?**

- No.

**Can MSU Extension staff disseminate information about in-person events to 4-H audiences?**

- No. MSU Extension does not support in-person events until September 1, 2020

**Can 4-H funds be used to support youth classes that were once planned as 4-H classes? Examples include ribbons and awards that may include the 4-H name and emblem.**

- Only ribbons and awards purchased prior to April 15, 2020, can be used at a 2020 fair. After that date, 4-H funds that were raised for the purpose of supporting 4-H events cannot be used to purchase items for a 2020 fair.

**Can funds raised in the name of 4-H be used by the fair to purchase new ribbons and awards for an in-person fair?**

- No. Federal regulation prohibit the use of funds raised in the name of 4-H for 4-H activities to be used by another entity or in the name of another entity.

**Will the MSU Extension 4-H American Income Life insurance policy cover 4-H youth who are participating in an event or activity that is not sponsored by MSU Extension?**

- No. Coverage will still exist when they participate in MSU Extension events. However, in-person activities that occur before September 1, 2020, will not be considered MSU Extension or 4-H events. This includes pre- and post-fair events such as group workouts, facility setup and cleanup, etc.

**Can 4-H staff and volunteers share personal contact information about 4-H volunteers, clubs and youth with fairs or other partners?**

- No. MSU Extension staff members are not permitted to release 4-H mailing lists or any other records containing the names of and personal information about 4-H program participants.

**Can 4-H members join other county programs in order to participate in a fair (if the fair is after September 1)?**

- MSU Extension does not encourage it, but it is a local decision based on county 4-H and county fair rules.

**Can a fair organize the judging and exhibition of still exhibits in 4-H classes at an in-person fair if materials are mailed, etc.?**

- No.

**If 4-H youth and clubs are participating in virtual fair activities, may the fair pay the youth/club premiums?**

- Yes.

**Will 4-H consider adding on a year for 4-H youth that would have aged out after 2020?**

- No. Our 4-H age policy will not change. MSU Extension is committed to creating virtual experiences that will ensure that young people aging out still have a great final-year experience.

## Additional Questions

For more information, contact your local 4-H program coordinator or:

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