



NEWS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

After careful review of the guidance developed by the Governor's office, health and school officials, the Maryland Department of Agriculture, along with key discussions with stakeholders, the University of Maryland Extension (UME) 4-H Program will take the following approach for summer programs:

Beginning August 1, 2020, Maryland 4-H will gradually resume in-person program with limitations that meet the following standards:

- a. 4-H activities comply with the appropriate local government jurisdiction for each stage of the state's reopening plan
- b. The 4-H activity must be outdoors or within a facility that allows for physical distancing (at least 6 feet apart between each participant)
- c. Group size must be 10 individuals or less (2 UME Volunteers + 8 or less youth/others)
- d. Participants must maintain physical distancing throughout the event (at least 6 feet apart)
- e. Participants must wear face coverings in accordance with CDC guidance
- f. Hand hygiene must be available (sinks, soap/water, sanitizer, etc.)
- g. Cleaning/disinfecting supplies must be available and high-touch materials, equipment and surfaces must be sanitized after each use

The goal of the Howard County 4-H program is to offer a safe, healthy and positive youth development experience to all our 4-H members and their families. The Howard County 4-H Youth Development program will continue to comply with the guidelines from the University of Maryland Extension, Governor's office, County Executive's office, and health and school officials, as we provide positive youth development experiences.

Howard County 4-H Indoor Fair Building

The Howard County 4-H Indoor Building at the fair will be hosted on a virtual platform. This means that there will not be physical entries on display at the fair. Instead, youth will be able to submit entries through an online portal with a video and/or photographs. Specific details regarding how to enter will be provided to everyone with examples.

Howard County 4-H Fair Contests

Due to the restrictions and guidelines put in place from Maryland 4-H, we will not have any contests during the week of the fair. Contests that will NOT occur in 2020 include: Bicycle Contest, New Zoo Revue, Small Pet Contest, Model Horse Show, Special Horse Photography Contest, Judging Contests, Livestock Skillathon, Horsemanship Contest, Worm Race, Bowl Contests, etc.

Howard County 4-H Animal Shows

Due to the restrictions and guidelines put in place from Maryland 4-H, we will not have any 4-H animal shows during the fair.

In response to 4-H being unable to host 4-H shows, The Howard County Fair Board is offering 4-H youth the opportunity to participate in Howard County Fair Youth Animal Shows. This is an opportunity that will be available

to all active Howard County 4-H members. Of course, it is each family's individual decision as to whether they would like to participate in these shows or not. There will be more information provided to each family as the fair makes additional decisions and plans regarding these shows. The show schedule will look very different and they are finalizing the schedule for release soon. Please keep in mind that how things proceed forward are based on any restrictions put in place by the Governor, County Executive and Health Department. The 2020 Howard County Fair Youth Shows are not an officially-sanctioned or supported event of Howard County 4-H or the University of Maryland Extension 4-H Youth Development Program. The 4-H program assumes no legal, operational or monetary responsibility for these shows.

Howard County 4-H Livestock Sale

The Howard County 4-H Livestock Sale Committee will be hosting a virtual 4-H Online Livestock Sale. The Livestock Sale Committee will have a press release with specific information about the sale. The online sale will open on Thursday, August 13, 2020 and will close on the evening of Friday, August 14, 2020.

For further information, please contact:

Sheryl L. Bennett
Howard County 4-H Youth Development Educator
sherylb@umd.edu