Hello Lyon County 4-H families.

COVID-19 best management practices and restrictions continue to develop and will continue to develop 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.

Currently as of March 17, 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 targeted to you, the people we serve 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 the Gary Fuller Spring Classic won't take place May 2-3, and many other spring shows will be cancelled at least through May 16 (shows not sponsored/support by Extension will be regulated by their respective local governments). We share this information so that you know your spring show opportunities are affected. 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 Lyon County governance over all activities, no different than we have in the past.

Your action steps:

To comply with current restrictions, we will NOT host our regular county-wide face-to-face spring livestock tagging events April 25 and 29. We will also modify our May 1 Horse and Dog identification requirements. It is still important to document and identify livestock and animals our youth have purchased or raised as 4-H projects for the 2019/2020 year. We will host an online Facebook identification/nomination process for Lyon County 4-H projects including sheep, meat goat, dairy goat, pig, bucket calf, breeding heifer, dairy heifer, horse and dog.

Market beef tagging already took place so all market beef animals have already been tagged and documented.

Here's how it will work on a per specie basis:

- Private Facebook groups for each species will be created.
- You will need to be invited to the private FB group, so please add Corinne Patterson, Brian Rees or Debbie Van Sickle as a FB friend, if you haven't already. We will add only 4-H families and will try to add all those we know who are enrolled in the respective livestock project. It's a good time to verify if your 4-Her is properly enrolled (https://ks.4honline.com/Login.aspx?403D4065476E5551444A414B68513D)
- 4-H families will take individual pictures of each individual animal. It's important to get a good quality picture of each individual animal with identifiable markings, if
possible. (Livestock photography is a real career, it's a great time to study, learn and practice these skills!) 4-Hers need not be in each picture as they might be the ones taking the picture!

- Also take a picture of all of your 4-Hers in your household. This represents family nomination. Please post this photo with your individual animal pictures per species FB group. If your animal already has a Lyon County 4-H EID tag still in its ear (i.e. breeding doe, heifer, etc.) from previous tagging, you do not need to get a picture of that animal, but do include its EID visual tag number in your family nomination post.

- Post your individual livestock pictures per family via an album or the same FB post (please don't put individual picture posts if you have multiple animals in a family. Go back to your original post to add additional animals). Be sure to label each picture by a family name.

- Nominations must be made by 11:59 p.m. May 1. You may make nominations anytime between March 20 and May 1.

- If you do not have Facebook or a 4-H club member who can post pictures for you, you can email your animal nominations to clpatt@ksu.edu and brees@ksu.edu. Please only do this option if you cannot use FB.

Any Lyon County 4-Her wishing to nominate livestock projects for the Kansas State Fair or the Kansas Junior Livestock Show will need to make individual appointments with Brian and/or Corinne to still have these animals tagged by state nomination deadlines. Please email clpatt@ksu.edu and brees@ksu.edu to make us aware of your intentions, and we will stay in contact with you to meet the state tagging/nomination requirements. You will also need to complete the YQCA online certification found online at http://yqca.org/

We will be monitoring these FB groups and will interact with you so you know your nomination has been documented. This may also be a fun time for families to see all the great projects our 4-Hers are working on. We may host online judging contests and offer incentives for families to update their livestock pictures as the summer progresses. This is a real opportunity to share with each other the livestock development process and watch how our projects grow. Please stay tuned to fun opportunities to come.

We know many families are purchasing animals in the next few weeks, or they already have made purchases. We will open invites to the FB groups by March 20.

If any 4-H community can make this process work and be a positive experience, we know it's Lyon County. We have the very best 4-Hers, parents, volunteers, and community supporters. We can't wait to see all the great 4-H livestock and animal projects out there!

Corinne Patterson
Brian Rees