



These past couple of months have been. I have been really looking forward to meeting as many members as possible and learning about summer programming traditions. I someone asked me when I took this position how the first five months would go I would not have mentioned and Global Pandemic or having to work from home for 3 months. I have been working hard to keep the program updated to the best of my abilities but I will admit it has been a challenge. Requirements and stipulations change hourly and sometimes I am not notified about these changes before you are.

In light of this statement I want everyone to feel comfortable asking me questions. State 4-H Program leadership is playing catch up with many policies and procedures so the more questions I can ask them the better. County educators have really been pushing them for answers on topics such as food stands, day camps and other summer activities that counties want to start putting on.

Below are the upcoming events and scholarship opportunities that are happening in the state and the county! Please note if you would like club, project, or committee information added to the email, in the quarterly newsletter, or to the 4-H Calendar online contact: andrea.ripple@wisc.edu

- **Parents and Leader's Cook Book Fundraiser:** The Parents and Leaders are working on promoting their Cook Book Fundraiser. This will help support funding the Jackson County 4-H Program including educational experience scholarships, Projects Grants, County wide programs and more. With your help we can sell these around the county! Promotional items are available on the website.
 - <https://jackson.extension.wisc.edu/4-h/about-4-h/4-h-youth-development-4-h-parents-and-leaders-association/fundraisers/>

- **Covid-19 Updates:** A Program update email has been sent out through 4-H Online from Dei, Wisconsin 4-H's Program Manager. If you have not seen it yet I have a copy on the Covid-19 update page. Here key take away from the letter:
 - If a meeting can be held virtually or with "no contact" will be preferred through June. (Ex. are Dog project meeting with one family at a time)
 - ANY meeting that wants to meet in person for any reason is required to work with me to gain approval. If you have questions ask me.
 - Groups will have to follow safety guidelines in order to meet in person.
 - <https://jackson.extension.wisc.edu/2020/03/16/4-h-programming-postponed/>
- **North Dakota State Livestock Showing Videos:** Here are some great resources for youth who are currently showing livestock of are interested in learning more about a different species.
 - https://www.ndsu.edu/4h/website_master/programs_events_master/state_4_h_contests/livestock_events/
- **UW-Madison Farm Research Center Virtual Tours:** Check out these great videos or the research farms the UW uses! I watched a couple of them this week and I learned a lot about what each facility does and how they all work together with different parts of the university. At the end of each video they ask the presenters what they went to school for and their career path to the current role they have.
 - <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/youthlivestock/2020/04/15/virtualfarmtours/>
- **YQCA Reminder:** YQCA is the only requirement for the Livestock project this year. Please send a copy of the certificate, not a screen shot of the completed course, to Julie by **July 15th at 4:30pm.**
 - <https://yqca.learngrow.io/Account/Login>
- **Project Grants:** Project Grants are now available! These are due to Andrea by **June 8th**. Below are the application and guidelines.
 - <https://jackson.extension.wisc.edu/files/2018/01/Project-Grants-2018-Update.pdf>
 - <https://jackson.extension.wisc.edu/files/2019/04/Project-Grant-Application-Fillable-Form.pdf>
- **Wisconsin State Fair Cancellation:** *This text is from the state fair email I received on 5/28.*

Dear Friends,

The Wisconsin State Fair is so much more than just a fair – it is tradition, it is celebration, it is family. This is why our hearts are so heavy as we bring you this news. For the safety of our fairgoers, staff, vendors, entertainers, exhibitors, sponsors, suppliers and the broader community, the 2020 Wisconsin State Fair has been canceled.

Here is the official statement from Wisconsin State Fair:

WEST ALLIS, Wis. – *May 28, 2020 – For several months the Wisconsin State Fair Park Board of Directors and staff have been working tirelessly analyzing all facets of the annual event, in hopes of being able to provide the Wisconsin State Fair experience that Fairgoers have come to know and love over the past 169 years.*

On Tuesday, May 26, the board voted unanimously to authorize Chairman Yingling to make the determination on whether events currently scheduled at State Fair Park, including the 2020 Wisconsin State Fair, are to be canceled, after extensive input from each Board member and Kathleen O’Leary, Executive Director/CEO. Today Chairman Yingling announced that for the safety of fairgoers, staff, vendors, entertainers, exhibitors, sponsors, suppliers and the broader community, the 2020 Wisconsin State Fair has been canceled.

The board and staff have been closely monitoring COVID-19 data from local, state and federal health officials during this time. While some restrictions have recently been lifted and businesses are beginning to re-open, most are requiring strict safety measures, including social distancing, the wearing of masks and temperature checks. The evidence that this disease spreads quickly and easily when people are in densely populated areas has led several agencies to continue their recommendation to avoid mass gatherings.

Considering the Wisconsin State Fair is the largest event in the State of Wisconsin, drawing more than one million people over the course of 11 days, this weighed heavily into the decision to cancel the 2020 Wisconsin State Fair. The safety of all fairgoers and staff, as well as the above-mentioned partners who are so important to putting on a successful fair, has always been the number one top priority.

In addition, the magnitude of the financial implications associated with hosting a fair with significantly reduced attendance, as well as implementing the

recommended mass gathering safety measures, could be detrimental to the future of State Fair Park. The State Fair Park Board has the responsibility to be stewards of the public funds entrusted to Wisconsin State Fair Park and ensure the financial viability of the Fair Park not only heading into 2021, but for years to come.

"On behalf of the entire State Fair Park Board of Directors, please know that the decision to cancel the 2020 Wisconsin State Fair was not taken lightly," said Wisconsin State Fair Park Board Chairman John Yingling. "Months of deliberation took place, considering all options to host a Fair that adheres to the highest standard of safety without compromising the experience. We explored countless models, but ultimately safety cannot be compromised. The risks associated with hosting an event of this size and scope right now are just too great."

As a State of Wisconsin agency, Chairman Yingling and the State Fair Park Board of Directors have been in communication with Governor Evers, as well as the Department of Administration, and have their support.

"The Wisconsin State Fair is so much more than just a fair – it is a celebration of everything we are so proud of in Wisconsin," said Kathleen O'Leary, CEO of Wisconsin State Fair Park. "We understand the magnitude of disappointment you may be feeling. We feel it too. However, safety is our top priority, and that cannot be compromised under any circumstance. We have tremendously loyal fairgoers, vendors, partners and exhibitors. For that we are forever grateful, and our greatest responsibility is to ensure that the fair remains strong and resilient for future generations."

For those who have already purchased admission tickets during the annual holiday sales promotion, tickets will be valid for the 2021 Wisconsin State Fair. However, refunds are also available through June 30, 2020. Main Stage concert tickets are eligible for a full refund. Concert tickets purchased with a credit card will automatically be refunded to the card used for purchase. For more details, as well as answers to many other questions, please visit Wistatefair.com.

Moving forward, the board and staff will continue to analyze the data and prioritize the safety of all Fair Park visitors when making decisions about other events scheduled to be held at State Fair Park. The 2021 Wisconsin State Fair, presented by U.S. Cellular, is scheduled to take place August 5 – 15.

Although we will not have an opportunity to celebrate this summer, we will continue to work tirelessly to bring you the best Wisconsin State Fair possible in 2021.

For information pertaining to refunds/general competition questions please refer to our Competition FAQ page.

- **Fair Entries:** Fair Entries are due on June 13th! Fair books are available at the Extension Office and online at the link below.
 - <https://www.jacksoncountyfairwi.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-Jackson-County-Fair-Book-1.pdf>
- **Club Dues:** Club Leaders; if you have received a letter about paying club dues please do so. Contact Lori if you have questions!
 - lj.janke@hotmail.com
- **Advanced Space Camp:** Get ready, it's almost time for Advanced Space Camp!
 - <https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/wi4hedopp/advanced-space-camp-academy/>
- **State 4-H Dog Project:**

Dear Wisconsin 4-H dog project participants,

We are sorry to have to deliver this message to you. Along with 4-H staff, the state dog project volunteer show planning committees from La Crosse and Washington Counties have made the decision to cancel the following education experiences for 2020:

- WI 4-H Dog Agility Show (Middleton, WI)
- WI 4-H Obedience & Showmanship Show (Washington County Fair Park)

The WI 4-H dog show planning committees are extremely dedicated to doing everything they can to provide these educational experiences for Wisconsin 4-H participants and we are very grateful for their efforts to host the shows this year. Throughout the pandemic, they had held out hope that they would still be able to host these shows in August. With current public health safety restrictions for the months of June and July, county dog projects around the state are unable to gather for practices as dog training is an inherently social activity necessitating close physical contact. The lack of ability to hold behavioral dog training in preparation for these shows creates an unacceptable safety risk for 4-H participants and volunteers to gather for these state shows. Additionally, current COVID-19 health restrictions are unclear for off-campus youth events in August and it is likely that we may be forced to cancel these shows to avoid community spread as the health of our participants and their families is our top concern. Lastly, the planning committees were unable to fundraise sufficiently to host these shows as many local business sponsors have taken a financial hit due to the economic slowdown.

We deeply regret the need to cancel these events for 2020 as we know it is yet another loss for our young people this year. For youth in their final year of 4-H participation (13th grade), we invite them to return in 2021 to participate in the alumni class at the obedience and showmanship show. We also invite youth to apply the leadership qualities and mastery of skills by supporting these future events as 4-H volunteers to continue the 4-H tradition.

In the absence of these events, we want to encourage participants to continue to stay as active with dog project education and training. Please check out the [Wisconsin State 4-H Dog Project Facebook page](#) for some great obedience training videos provided by the Kewaunee dog project. The [Wisconsin 4-H Program page](#) also has links to dog project resources. Also, check out the American Kennel Club (AKC) [Titles & Programs You Can Do From Home](#) and a [Virtual Rally program](#). Please take care of yourselves and loved ones during this challenging time.

Sincerely,

WI 4-H Staff & State Dog Show Committees

For questions and more information, please contact:
Joe Muellenberg, Wisconsin 4-H Program Outreach Specialist
joe.muellenberg@wisc.edu, 608-262-9605

- **Graduating Senior Spotlight:** In light of the recent pandemic I wanted to take a moment to put a spotlight on some of our graduating seniors. If interested families could send me a couple of things I will put together a flyer for everyone so we can celebrate their great accomplishments. What I will need from you is:
 - A photo of the graduating senior
 - What they are planning to do after High School (Ex. Collage, Join Workforce, Military)
 - Include and answer to this question; How have you grown in 4-H?
 - Please send all of the following to andrea.ripple@wisc.edu

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{I respond well to Text messages as I have poor Cell phone service at my house}