Dear North Dakota 4-H family,

With the recent restrictions due to COVID-19 placed on gatherings regarding North Dakota 4-H members, volunteers, and faculty and staff, we are receiving questions regarding the upcoming fairs and achievement days season. We have been in contact with North Dakota State Fair officials and that event remains on the summer schedule. We will notify you if that changes.

North Dakota 4-H does not have a **statewide** requirement for a member to have attended a minimum number of meetings in order to exhibit (or to complete a 4-H year). However, we are well aware that counties may have requirements for members to participate at their local fair/achievement days. These requirements may have been established by your county 4-H programs or fair boards.

NDSU Extension’s Center for 4-H Youth Development intends for every youth participating in 4-H to have the best experience we can provide. Due to this, we’re encouraging club and project leaders be accommodating with their 4-H members and families in meeting any project requirements. We’ve all been encouraged to utilize on-line and virtual learning (and reporting) processes as much as possible. North Dakota 4-H is also following this recommendation to protect youth, families, and staff.

We encourage project and club leaders to assign activities that members can do at home, or remotely. We would like project leaders to work with local 4-H staff to find creative alternatives to provide members with a quality project experience. Due to the Extension’s suspension of face-to-face educational contacts until May 15th, we request that project and club leaders not conduct efforts involving physical presence with youth. Rather, utilize the use of technology (online, virtual, text, phone) as the method of contact with youth. Thank you to those who are already working to accommodate your members!

Below you will find some suggestions for alternative activities for 4-H project and club meetings. When dealing with these alternatives it is important to use clear communication. This will make it easier for all to know what is expected and acceptable.

**Special Note:** The recommendations outlined above pertain to non-shooting sports projects. Adrian Biewer, 4-H Youth Specialist, will be providing separate guidelines for shooting sports requirements.

Ideas for alternative project meeting activities:

- Livestock project members can participate in online YQCA training. Horse project members can take part in riding safety videos and many other online resources.
- Utilize 4-H project content related YouTube videos with some form of reflection. Check out our project pages found at: [https://www.ndsu.edu/4h/member_information/projects/project_sheets/](https://www.ndsu.edu/4h/member_information/projects/project_sheets/)
- Hold your virtual 4-H meetings using Zoom – free here [https://zoom.us/](https://zoom.us/). Please continue to follow 4-H Youth Protection guidelines and have at least two adults present during virtual meetings with 4-H youth.
- Encourage members to take time to update their 4-H project records.
- We are working on developing and posting additional activities on the North Dakota 4-H Facebook page for project related challenges and activities – more info to come on this. We have already been posting some suggestions. Check them out if you have not already done so.

Thank you all for your continued support of the youth of North Dakota, the North Dakota 4-H program and for your patience as we work through this situation. Our unity of effort will help everyone manage this unique but dynamic situation.

**Brad Cogdill**  
Chair, Center for 4-H Youth Development  
**March 26, 2020**