

Date: March 20, 2020

To: All Yavapai County 4-H and FFA members,

From: Scott Luedeman, EXPO Chair
Chad Dickinson, EXPO Vice Chair
Melanie Pierce, EXPO Secretary
Cindy Price, EXPO Treasurer
Jessica Dickinson, EXPO Show Sale Secretary
Jason Laipple, EXPO Facilities
Jeff Schalau, County Director, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Yavapai County
Shirley Vasovski, 4-H Program Coordinator, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension, Yavapai County

Subject: Yavapai County 4-H/FFA EXPO

Over the last week, your Yavapai County EXPO Executive Board has been holding nightly meetings to assess the COVID-19 situation and how we may continue with the planned 2020 4-H/FFA EXPO. As you are aware, conditions continue to change, sometimes on a daily basis. Our ideal outcome was to wait till Monday March 23rd to see how events developed and make a decision. It was our hope to stay on track with holding EXPO as planned. On Thursday, March 19, 2020 we were able to verify that the City of Prescott has officially canceled all events in the City of Prescott into the month of May. Later that night Yavapai County announced their first case of COVID-19 in Yavapai County.

Upholding the 4-H values on leadership and health, we as a unanimous Executive Board along with collaborating with the University of Arizona have decided to cancel the live EXPO event to be held April 22-25 at the Prescott Rodeo Grounds. The health of our members, our supporters, and our community are our number one priority. Please know that this decision has not come lightly, and all options have been weighed to come up with solutions for our youth to finish their projects. We have been in contact with other counties in our state and the state and local Cooperative Extension/4-H Offices. Our decisions are based on best practice and consistency with other counties in Arizona.

So, to answer your question, what is our "Plan"? At this time, we will not be having showmanship or conformation shows, however, we are exploring options to see if there is anything we can do in a virtual environment in place of these events. We have decided to have an online auction. This auction will be held about the same time as previously planned. Keep in mind, start and finish times may be worked to fit the auction companies time frame. We are choosing to do a static auction that will be placed on a website for a set amount of time. All animals and projects that would sell in our live auction will be able to sell in our online auction. This includes large livestock, small livestock, and indoor exhibits. For this auction, we will need some items from you such as a picture of you, your project, and a brief biography. More information will be coming soon with detailed plans and needs from the members.

Some of you may be wondering what options you have. We have decided to offer 2 options. Option number one is that you can sell your animal during the online auction as you would have during EXPO. Keep in mind due to the uncertainties, none of us can predict what prices can be. You members will still need to contact your buyers to get them the information for the sale. Weighing and processor options are currently being discussed. Option number 2 is that you can withdraw your project from the auction

allowing you to keep your animal and choose what to do with it outside of the 4-H/FFA EXPO. Know that sales not through the auction are not tax deductible for the buyers. Either way you choose, add on donations will be accepted to EXPO if you have people that would like to give you donations to help you out. The University of Arizona has assured us that withdrawing from the auction will not affect your member in good standing status.

More information will be coming out within the next week that should answer many of the questions you may have. Hard dates, times, and procedures will be finalized and shared with you all as. In the meantime, we ask that you remain patient with us and trust that decisions are being made in the best interest of our members. Each one of us have vested interests in this committee and will do our best to make this the best possible outcome for all our EXPO entrants. Until you hear further from us, please continue to work your project as you have been. This life change does not mean we can give up. One of our values is hard work which you all have put into your projects. Know that each committee member, leader, and parent are proud of your dedication to your projects.