

Polk County

4-H & FFA Fair Association

May 28, 20

Dear Polk County Fair exhibitors and families,

This past January we selected “Under Construction” as the 2020 Polk County Fair theme. At the time, it was a reference to the major renovation project occurring at the 4-H building this year. Four months later due to the unexpected events in our community, the whole concept of county fair has undergone some major “renovations”.

We would like to update you on our contingency plans for the 2020 Polk County Fair. Please keep in mind that we are planning for a future that is changing daily, much of it out of our control, so we ask for your patience and flexibility. The health and safety of all our participants are our first priority as we make plans for this year’s fair, and we will put measures in place that follow the recommended guidelines provided by local and county officials. As it stands today, this includes limiting the overall number of people present and minimizing crowds. Show attendance may be limited to exhibitors and two family members, and livestock and animal shows may be jackpot, “show-and-go” style. Other events may be virtual.

FairEntry will open as planned on June 2. There will be no entry fees for exhibitors, and there will be no premiums awarded. A revised fair schedule is attached to this letter; please note that the dates of some livestock shows have been changed in order to make it possible to spread out the shows and minimize attendance on any given day.

Additionally, we are working with our partners at the Iowa State Fair to host the county fair at the state fairgrounds, as in years past. In the event that this is not possible, we have arranged for an alternative venue in Polk County. The State Fair has indicated that we will have a firm decision no later than June 15.

Lastly for our 4-H and FFA members, we know the county fair is the highlight of the summer. No one understands this better than the Polk County Fairboard, where together we collectively represent more than two hundred years of county fair participation. Like you, we want nothing more than to have a county fair this summer, and these plans are our effort to give that to you.

The start of 2020 so far has been different (unique, we hope). We remain hopeful that despite the unique circumstances, we are building a memorable county fair. After all, the year 2020 is still under construction.

Sincerely,



Norman Veldhuizen
President
On behalf of the Polk County 4-H & FFA Fairboard



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