

Iowa 4-H Summer Best Practices & Expectations As of June 15, 2020

Beginning June 1st Iowa State University Extension and Outreach began an invitation for a phased re-opening. As of June 15, 2020, our phased re-opening is continuing.

Staff is expected to follow and conduct programming in accordance with the most current federal, state, local, and university COVID-19 guidelines.

County 4-H programs are expected to notify the State 4-H Office of county fair plans.

Below are best practices based on a slow transition back to in-person education and programming. President Wintersteen, Dr. Lawrence, our ISU Extension and Outreach Open for Iowa committee, and ISU committees provide expectations and recommendations. The ISU focus is on reopening for business while mitigating risks. Iowa 4-H is providing program specific expectations and recommendations that are meant to strengthen and complement ISU and ISU Extension and Outreach expectations and recommendations.

Please refer to the Open for Iowa resources at <https://my.extension.iastate.edu/open-iowa-back-work-guidance-0>. Give special attention to the ISU “Guidance for Events” and “Guide for Returning to the Workplace” documents.

In Person County programming:

1. In-person programming should be limited to a participant capacity that allows for the required physical distancing. It is also important to consider slowly moving towards a full class to allow staff to learn how to implement safety precautions.
2. Do not share supplies (ex. Provide a pair of scissors for each member)
3. Food preparation as an activity or to serve must be limited to pre-packaged food and drink. See the Insurance Updates from the Assistant Vice-President for County Services.
4. It is expected that staff who are able will wear a cloth face mask or face shield in accordance with Open for Iowa guidelines.
5. It is expected that facilities, have adequate facilities and/or equipment for handwashing / hand sanitizers
6. The willingness of 4-H youth and families to participate in an in-person event may vary. They may still prefer virtual or other online participation at this point. Continue to provide online educational program and event participation options.
7. Use the COVID-19 program Registration Statement and Registration Thank You Message to inform participants of safety protocols.

Fairs-Exhibit buildings:

1. Consider an exhibit drop off site outside the building



2. Consider conference judging in a different format (written questions, video chat, foregoing this year is also an option) *refer to Virtual Fair Committee recommendations and ISU "Guidance for Events".
3. Limit number of people in the building to a capacity that allows proper physical distancing. Attempt to improve ventilation, such as opening doors and windows, and using fans. Document safety procedures implemented during the event.
4. It is expected that staff who are able will wear a cloth face covering or face shield in accordance with Open for Iowa guidelines.
5. It is strongly encouraged that volunteers, participants, and families use face coverings and practice physical distancing
6. Use the Safe Distance signs and other resources available from ISU Extension and Outreach Advancement at the event location.

Fairs-Livestock:

1. Check-in and weigh-in - one family out of their vehicle at a time
2. It is expected that staff who are able will wear a cloth face coverings or face shield in accordance with Open for Iowa guidelines.
3. It is strongly encouraged that volunteers, participants, and families use face coverings and practice physical distancing
4. Limit number of youth in the barn and have aisles running one direction. If stalling is permitted, space families farther apart to create physical distance.
5. Consider rotating youth/animals and not have all animals of a species on the grounds at one time. Work on strategies that allow fewer people in at one time to allow for physical distancing.
6. Consider shortening the length of time animals are at the fair and rotate species if possible.
7. Class size should be adjusted to allow proper physical distancing.
8. Allow larger space for feed and tack areas, limit number of youth in tack room

Fair-Food Booths:

1. Follow guidelines for in-person programming above.
2. Limit number of people in booth to allow for physical distancing.
3. Practice proper use of face coverings, gloves, and physical distancing.
4. Must serve only individually pre-packaged foods and drink. See the Insurance Updates from the Assistant Vice-President for County Services.

