

PAULDING COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 222 Paulding, OH 45879

We the Senior Fair board are still planning and actively preparing for the 2020 Paulding County Fair. After careful consideration by the Paulding County Senior Fair board, with thoughtful discussions focusing on the concerns of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the current financial situation at the Paulding County Fair, the Fair Board of Directors has decided to focus solely on the KIDS this year. This is a difficult decision to make but we feel at this time, this is the right decision. This means that the 2020 fair year will only be a Junior Fair, there will be no Demo Derby, Tractor pulls, Rodeo, Tug a Truck or entertainment at the Sr Pavilion. The State Racing commission will make the final decision on the 2020 Harness Races, at a later date.

We want to clear a couple things up though, technically 4-H and FFA animal projects and other projects are considered completed at Skillathon, which will be virtual. Showing the animals at the fair is a bonus for the kids, the county fair has always been a way to display our youth's projects. The shows are considered a Jr Fair function, they are not 4-H functions. We are working hand in hand with the Paulding County OSU Extension to see how the shows will be implemented, we have several ideas. Michael and Sarah are awaiting further instructions about how we can maintain the partnership with them during this time. We value our partnership and they are gearing-up to make the several necessary educational components happen, using online meeting technology. If a fair is to be held, we will monitor and negotiate for the health and safety of our staff and youth participants and we are geared up to support and be prepared should fairs move forward and to pivot, should they not. These all will necessarily involve some negotiation, readjustments, and monitoring depending on the decisions and circumstances. The Director's Order by Governor DeWine and Dr Amy Acton's that was signed on March 17,2020 states no gatherings of 50 or more which includes Fairs, Parades and Festivals. We are hoping that they lift this directive by June. They are the only ones that can truly allow us to have the fair.

The Senior Fair board, Paulding County Ag Society, Paulding County OSU Extension and Jr Fair board will continue to work together, through this difficult time. Things are rapidly changing everyday but please know that everyone is actively thinking of ways to have the Jr Fair go on if we are allowed, but will need help in making sure these kids have the fair that they worked for. It may not look the same, but we are doing everything we can to plan for it. We suggest you also think of your own personal finances when caring for these animals.

The OSU Extension is having an Information Meeting Friday through ZOOM at 6:30, we will have several Senior Fair board members on that call to answer any questions we can, at this time.

We look forward to celebrating with our full fair community with the 2021 Paulding County Fair, next year.

We wish health and safety through these difficult circumstances,

Paulding Sr Fair board, Ir Fair board and Paulding County OSU Extension