



April 15, 2020

Lisa Bouillion Diaz  
4-H Assistant Dean and Director  
801 N. Country Fair Drive, Suite E  
Champaign, IL 61821

Director Diaz,

Thank you for your commitment to providing positive youth and leadership development programming in Illinois. We understand that ongoing health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic is causing concern for holding 4-H fairs and programs throughout the state this summer.

Many families that raise and care for livestock in Illinois have been working with their 4-H projects for the last several months. They continue to devote time and energy in anticipation for competing at 4-H fairs this summer. The experience of showcasing these livestock projects teaches valuable lessons to 4-H youth and are cherished moments for families.

We understand the need to evaluate programs during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we fear that the potential for alternative formats or cancelling summer 4-H activities would bring great disappointment and is premature given the available information and continued monitoring of the COVID-19 virus. Alternative show and judging formats may be a viable option for various general projects, but would prove difficult in evaluating livestock projects. We ask that 4-H members that show livestock not be deprived of the opportunity to participate in an in-person event where social distancing guidelines can still be easily implemented.

Again, we appreciate your leadership and service to Illinois 4-H programs. Efforts to continue accepting feedback and delay any decision in regard to cancellation of 4-H fairs and programs to ensure minimal impact on 4-H livestock families would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ruel "Buzz" Iliff  
President  
Illinois Beef Assn.

Don Mackinson  
President  
Illinois Milk Producers Assn.

Dale Weitekamp  
President  
Illinois Pork Producers Assn.

CC:

*Dr. Shelly Nichols-Richardson, Associate Dean and Director of Extension*  
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