

Dear UC ANR 4-H Families:

As you all know, national, state and local agencies have been implementing various measures to reduce the rate and risk of community spread of COVID-19. Many California counties, businesses, and school districts have implemented remote working protocols and a number of California counties have issued shelter in place orders.

We wanted to update you on protective measures being taken by the University of California, including all UC ANR locations. Last week, all UC campuses, the Office of the President and UC ANR offices in Davis, Berkeley and Oakland began implementing telecommute and limited on-site operations protocols. This week, all UC Agriculture and Natural Resources county offices, research and extension centers and statewide programs are implementing similar protocols. By Friday, March 20, all UC ANR employees will be working remotely, with the exception of designated essential on-site staff/academics.

Being mindful of official guidance concerning social distancing, all UC ANR functions, events, activities, meetings, etc. will also either be postponed, cancelled or moved to Zoom video conferencing through April 7, or until the guidance is modified. This directive also includes all volunteer-led youth or adult programming, meetings, or gatherings.

During this telecommute status, I want to emphasize that we are still working and available to assist our partners and stakeholders across the state. Critical research projects are being maintained and program delivery is taking place online. There is no impact to your ability to connect with us by email, phone or Zoom video conferencing. We will work to find solutions to support our stakeholders throughout any possible scenario that the virus may bring.

We know that every organization we serve is facing unprecedented challenges at this time. UC ANR is happy to provide free access to Zoom video conferencing tools and training. Please contact Julie Katawicz if you would like assistance in accessing and using Zoom technology to support your activities. Zoom is also hosting daily training online:  
[https://livetraining.zoom.us/webinar/register/8915786869708/WN\\_Qkc7KpkNSFOdITwpZkGFIQ](https://livetraining.zoom.us/webinar/register/8915786869708/WN_Qkc7KpkNSFOdITwpZkGFIQ).

If you have any questions or issues regarding potentially impacted meetings, events, research, programs, etc., please do not hesitate to contact Julie at [jkatawicz@ucanr.edu](mailto:jkatawicz@ucanr.edu). We are here and available to assist you during this uncertain period.

Sincerely,

Devii Rao

UCCE San Benito, County Director

[drorao@ucanr.edu](mailto:drorao@ucanr.edu)



## *Santa Cruz County 4-H Newsletter March 2020*

We hope this newsletter finds all of the 4-H Families in good health! We are taking precautions to help keep our 4-H families healthy. **All 4-H meetings are to be held online by zoom or other online media resources. No in person meeting to take place until after April 7th.** We are happy to schedule the zoom meeting and send the link to the 4-H leader to disturb the 4-H members. Please send your email request to the 4-H office at [jkatawicz@ucanr.edu](mailto:jkatawicz@ucanr.edu) with the date and time of the meeting at least two days prior to meeting.

***We are canceling the 4-H council meeting on March 19th! Our next 4-H council meeting is May 21st, 6:45 pm Aptos Grange. We will consult with the executive board to determine if a special 4-H council meeting will be called in April due to the required cancelation of NO in person meetings.***

### **4-H & COVID-1-COVID-19 & Animal Husbandry**

In response to questions we are receiving, here is some pertinent information regarding caring for and raising your animals within the context of COVID-19.

Raising your 4-H animal can help you keep a bit of normal in your life during these times of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The bond you share with your animal can help you feel happy, relaxed, less stressed and less anxious and is good for your health and wellness.

[\(National Institute of Health; Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

- Regarding the Coronavirus and animals:
  - In the United States, there is no evidence to suggest that any animals, including pets, livestock, or wildlife, might be a source of COVID-19 infection at this time. However, because all animals can carry germs that can make people sick, it's always a good idea to practice healthy habits around pets and other animals. [[from CDC Animals and Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)]
  - The World Health Organization, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and Center for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that pets and other domestic animals are not considered at risk for contracting COVID-19 or transmitting the virus that causes COVID-19 (also known as 2019-nCoV). ([from American Veterinary Medical Association FAQ document](#))
  - The same guidance to reduce COVID-19 spread also is good practice for raising and caring for your animal, including washing your hands on a regular basis.
- Best Practices for 4-H Animal Projects
  - When 4-H Clubs have multiple families picking up their project animals from one location, please consider staggering each family's pick-up by 15 to 20 minutes.
  - In the case that all the 4-H Project animals are housed in one facility, a schedule should be created so families may sign up for a specific time slot to tend to their animals and facilitate social distancing.
  - Please remember not to financially overextend yourself for purchasing animals and feed. We do not know if Fairs will go forward this year.
  - As soon as we receive information from the Fairs, we will pass on that information to the 4-H Community.

## **“4-H Way”**

We are going to implement the “4-H Way” by going with a new plan to get our mission of learning for our 4-H youth. We are working on placing resources on the 4-H county website for project online learning materials and ideas for 4-H projects. We will send out an email at a later date with these links to these resources. Until we can get this link up and running here on some ideas for 4-H projects:

### **4-Her’s can make a difference by creating a “Message of Kindness Project”**

Now that we are all at home more, and the children are as well, Dee, 4-H leader has an activity. We think 4Hers will enjoy participating. Hospitals and Elderly homes are not allowed to have any visitors and that leaves them feeling alone, depressed, and even anxious.

### **4-Her’s can Help!**

4-H members can take a 8x10 piece of paper, write a message big enough to be read and hold it up while an adult( with permission of course) takes a picture, and send it to pslykas@gmail.com (Dee). They can include themselves in the screen shot or not. Dee will then take all that she receives and create a document and forward to the eldry homes, and hospitals. It would be nice to also thank the staff for all they are doing too...

***Thank you, Dee for offering this amazing project of kindness.***

- **4-H Record Books** This is a great time to record all your 4-H activities, conference, presentation in your record book.
  - Link for 4-H record book  
[http://cesantacruz.ucanr.edu/Youth\\_Development/Recognition\\_and\\_Awards\\_Program/Record\\_Books\\_/](http://cesantacruz.ucanr.edu/Youth_Development/Recognition_and_Awards_Program/Record_Books_/)
- **Arts & Craft projects**
  - Look around the house and create a special project to enter the fair. You will be ahead of the game.
  - Pinterest is a great source for creative projects.
- **Emerald Star Project** - Now is the time to plan a new Emerald Star project. We can be creative in different ways to reach our community online. Think of a project we can all do at home and drop off after the



shelter in place is lifted or delivered now to people in need of cheering up, or supplies. We have such an amazing group of youth and families in our program. I can not wait to hear your ideas.

- Emerald Star application: <http://cesantacruz.ucanr.edu/files/124631.pdf>

We are always interested in new ways to improve our 4-H program. Please send us suggestions by email to [jkatawicz@ucanr.edu](mailto:jkatawicz@ucanr.edu). We would be happy to share your creative ideas of new projects.

### **Day on the Capitol Event- Update**

“Due to the recent COVID-19 pandemic the Legislature is on recess until April 13<sup>th</sup>. All legislative meetings, hearing and staff discussions have halted for the time being, including UC ANR’s Ag Day at the Capitol which was supposed to take place on 3/24/2020. In lieu of in person meetings, we encourage everyone to write or email your local elected officials and ask for their support of 4-H. Thank you for all of your volunteerism and assistance! If you have questions, please contact me at [jkatawicz@ucanr.edu](mailto:jkatawicz@ucanr.edu).”

### **Spring Fair - May 9th**

We are gearing up for Spring Fair “Day on the Farm” on May 9th at the Ag History area, Santa Cruz Fair . We are looking at changing our participation to better meet the needs of the 4-H community and public. Let showcase 4-H in a different way!

We received feedback that we are spreading our 4-H program members thin at the Spring Fair. We are going to be hosting the following event only:

- Baking contest for our 4-H youth then sell the bake goods to public
- Lego contest (exhibit the amazing works of our 4-H youth)
- Rabbit exhibit (we will work with rabbit leaders on this display)
- Poultry Show
- 4-H information and active booth

Now is a great time to be creative and make projects for the Spring Fair! We will be asking 4-H members to wear their 4-H club shirts at Spring Fair.

***Exciting News:  
Ground Breaking Ceremony  
"New Living History Farm at Ag History,  
Santa Cruz Fairgrounds."***

A very dedicated group of folks along with the 4-H rep have been working to bring a living farm to the Ag History area for 4-H members to house their livestock. The public will interact during 2nd Saturday with the 4-H youth and animals year round. This is an amazing opportunity to open up a farm for 4-H members to house their animals. This partnership will open the doors to many youth in our community as well as expand the 4-H project. Come join us by showing your support on May 9th!

**Salinas Valley Fair Update:**

The last update we have received is Salinas Valley Fair (Kings City Fair) is still happening! Please submit your fair entries online. All livestock youth exhibitors complete your yearly YQCA training. Fingers crossed we will have a fair this year!

- Salinas Valley Fair entries: <https://www.salinasvalleyfair.com/>
- YQCA training link: <https://yqca.learn-grow.io/Account/Login>

**Fall Fair Updates:**

- The fairs are going forward with plans to open on the schedule dates in 2020!!
- We suggest all 4-H members go forward with plans to show at the fair.

***Our 4-H families have been very busy since January! We participated in many events. Here are some of the highlights.***

**4-H County Presentation Day**, we had a small group of 19 4-H youth participating in presentation day. The 4-H youth did an outstanding job presenting on different topics throughout the day. Part of 4-H is learning how to prepare a presentation then presenting on a topic of interest. We encourage 4-H members to participate next year on presentation day. You will use these skills in school and later in life.

## **4-H Disneyland Educational Event**

Well the COVID-19 virus rained on our parade. Minutes after we arrived at Disneyland, we were informed it was just announced the park was closing on Saturday! We were disappointed. We had over 70 youth scheduled to attend the 4-H event. We are working with the familie and Disneyland to receive refund for the tickets. This will be a long process due to all the shutdowns in offices.

We are looking at rescheduling the event for next after our fair season. We are hoping for good health and weather in October or November. We will send out an update in fall so even more families can join us.

We will be sending out updates on the 4-H program by email until we are back in the office.

Take Care,

***Julie Katawicz***

Julie Katawicz  
4-H Program Rep  
[jkatawicz@ucanr.edu](mailto:jkatawicz@ucanr.edu) or Mobile (831) 205-3180