

Dear 4-H Members taking Poultry Projects and Club Advisors:

Today, the Ohio Department of Agriculture has cancelled all poultry exhibitions in the state for the remainder of this year. This means that there will NOT be a poultry show at the Pickaway County Fair. The cancellation of the poultry show is due to the avian influenza virus (HPAI) that is affecting flocks of poultry around the country. More information about their decision can be found in the ODA press release below.

While we understand that this is extremely disappointing for our 4-H and FFA members taking poultry projects, please understand that this decision was not taken lightly and it was made in an effort to protect flocks of birds around Ohio, including the projects that our own members are raising.

What does this mean for the Pickaway County Fair? Please know that the Pickaway County Ag Society (Sr. Fair Board), the OSU Extension Office (4-H), and the Livestock and Sale committee are working on providing the best possible options in this crisis. Here is what each of us are able to offer so far:

1. Each member should attend Skillathon. Skillathon judging is the actual project completion for a 4-H member. Members should complete their books and attend on June 15 or 16 as scheduled.
2. The end of the poultry barn will be reserved for a poultry display and poultry activities. Each member is asked to bring a (approximately) 4 x 6" photo of them with their birds. The photo will be put on the display board for the week of fair. We encourage each member to include the pen tag that their advisor picks up and provide their name and project on the tag.
3. On Poultry show day a set of activities will be offered from 9:00am to approximately 11:00am. These activities will be both fun and educational in nature. Most will be contests. We encourage all poultry members to take part! We will have additional information on this in a hand-out at Skillathon Judging.
4. The Junior Fair rule that states "each member may sell only one animal through the ring individually" will stand, but if the animal you want to sell through the ring is your market poultry animal, you (without your bird) will be able to sell through the sale ring. Exhibitors will still receive their premium bid from the buyer, they just will not receive any packer money. Details on how to declare that you are "selling" your bird are still being established.
5. What will members now do with their birds? We are still working to see if there may be packers that member may take their animals to individually. As that information becomes available we will share it with you.

We appreciate your understanding and patience and will be sharing more information regarding 4-H and Junior Fair events as it becomes available.

Sincerely,  
Joy Sharp, Extension Educator 4-H  
Bob Black, President Pickaway County Agricultural Society

