



Dear Marias Fair 4-H families,

While planning for the Marias Fair during the pandemic, the top priority of our 4-H program has been the health and safety of our youth, families, volunteers, faculty, staff, and supporters throughout our communities. We are responsible to protect those around us - especially vulnerable populations and to consider our 4-H families, staff, judges, and community in our plans.

It was a hard decision but given this responsibility, the joint decision was made on July 6, 2020, by the four county's Extension offices, in cooperation with other County Commissioners and Health Departments, to shift to virtual shows and a virtual sale for our 2020 Marias Fair 4-H events. Locally, there has been an increase in Covid-19 cases and local health officials shared that quarantining compliance has been poor. Specific to the fair's 4-H events, we must be able to meet the necessary sanitizing requirements, physical distancing in barns and at campers, and minimize interactions between families coming from our four counties.

**Marias 4-H Fair**

*Glacier, Liberty,  
Pondera and Toole  
County and the  
Blackfeet Reservation*

We recognize the incredible amount of work, investment, and planning that our 4-H families have done. We do not take this decision to shift formats lightly. We were hopeful that we could proceed with modified plans for 2020 but given the current situation, the virtual option is the lowest risk for our 4-H families, judges, and buyers.

We are extremely grateful for the ongoing local support of 4-H. There is perhaps no community across Montana that supports 4-H quite as strongly as the Marias Fair community. We ask for your understanding in this decision. As important as the fair is, this is not where the lessons of a successful 4-H experience begin or end. They rest in a sense of belonging, an opportunity to master a skill or interest, the confidence to influence your own future, and serving others while transitioning to a caring and capable adult. The skills that have developed through this past 4-H year will stick with these youth regardless of this year's fair experience.

We have many details to work out in the coming days and will be frequently communicating with you. Please note the following:

- Fairgrounds cleanup previously scheduled for this Saturday, July 11 is cancelled. The dog arena renovations will be completed later.
- Exhibit drop off at the Exhibit Building will continue this Saturday, July 11 from 12 – 2 p.m. Exhibits will be judged for ribbons and awards as planned. Exhibit building entries can be picked up on Monday, July 13 from 4 to 7 pm and on Tuesday, July 14 from 4 to 7 pm at the exhibit building. One family can pick up boxes for other families as long as we know who they are via an email or call/text. Other arrangements can be made for other days by calling Alice at 424-8250 or text 291-3221 or calling Wendy at 271-4052 or text 750-0147.
- Livestock shows will be conducted virtually. Agents will be coordinating how to video member's livestock in the coming days.

*Montana State University,  
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MSU Extension is an equal  
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- Livestock sale will be conducted virtually. These details will be sent as soon as possible. Please continue to watch the Marias Fair 4-H Facebook page and share that information as well.
- Small animal and horse shows will be conducted virtually. More details will be forthcoming.
- All fees and deposit checks will be shredded.

We are incredibly proud of the work that our 4-Hers do and the lessons they master through 4-H. We are extremely hopeful that the 2021 Marias Fair will be business as usual. Until then, keep “Making the Best Better.”

In 4-H friendship,

Marias Fair MSU Extension