



March 8, 2021

## **4-H at County Fairs Memo**

As Spring Fair season commences, I want to provide some additional information and clarity for you, our families, and youth about the role of 4-H at large events (e.i. County Fairs). UACE will and continues to follow a COVID-19 mitigation phase approach, this phased approach allows the organization to be responsive to the spread of this dangerous disease in our communities.

I have received many questions about 4-H and county Fairs and, when would it be an appropriate COVID-19 mitigation phase for county fair events to be a sanctioned 4-H event. Our plan says “For Large events where UArizona Cooperative Extension (and 4-H) are not the sponsors, and only partake (aka County Fair), the decision will be made four (4) weeks in advance based on the mitigation phase, and the community spread trajectory.”

It is important to acknowledge that Arizona 4-H, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension (UACE), or University of Arizona is not responsible for organizing and implementing County Fair. Educational events at the County Fair (e.g., livestock shows, 4-H youth member exhibits, and knowledge contests) are sanctioned to use 4-H name and emblem in exchange for adhering to our educational objectives and the policies established to achieve these objectives. Thus, when establishing if a County event meets a phase guidance the respective educational events should be assessed. If the event meets the Phase 1 guidance the event can be sanctioned when the county the event is being held is at Phase 1.

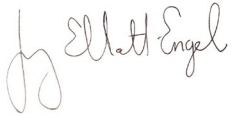
We expect Arizona 4-H youth to adhere to our COVID-19 Mitigation requirements outlined in the [Arizona 4-H COVID-19 Club Meeting Guidance](#) and [University of Arizona Cooperative Extension mitigation phase requirements](#).

In 2021, IF you have determined the educational events at County Fair are able to be sanctioned as a 4-H event every youth will be asked to sign the 4-H Sanctioned Educational Events at County Fairs Notice of Information. This notice of information will be added as an annual “waiver” signature to ensure our families understand that the 4-H program does not establish care, custody, and control of youth during the event and does not take organizational responsibility during 4-H sanctioned events.

This Notice of Information is not linked to COVID-19 mitigation. This Notice of Information is a youth safety protocol that will become standard policy in 2022. Because not all county-fair events will be able to meet the sanctioned eligibility we will not be able to include this in our

enrollment management system waiver section. This will mean you will need to share this with your membership and collect signed documents prior to the Fair.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elliott Engel". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "E".

Associate Director and State 4-H Program Leader  
University of Arizona Cooperative Extension

