



Lake County Agricultural Society, Inc.

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To Our Members, Exhibitors, Stakeholders and Friends:

For most of us this time of uncertainty is unprecedented. There is no greater example of this than the changes we continue to make for the good of our physical, emotional and financial well being under the directives of our President, Governor and others. Even as we focus on our safety, our love for our Fair, and all fairs, is something that continues to be paramount on our minds.

The daily suspense of what is going on around us can only leave us to wonder what lies ahead for the 2020 fair season. Our fair office currently remains closed to the public and several meetings have been canceled in compliance with Ohio's Stay at Home Order. Our secretary, Michelle Byram, is working remotely and responding to e-mails and phone calls in order to maintain the fair's necessary business.

Despite these circumstances, it is important to us, that you know, that your fair directors, managers and event planners continue to work diligently in anticipation of a 2020 Lake County Fair. This year's premium book is being drafted and is online for an early June release. We have hired judges, entered into entertainment contracts, invested in financial deposits where needed, and we have a strong commitment from our amusement ride company to go forward.

Many of you in our 4-H community have already or will soon make decisions to financially commit to your project(s) for this year. While in these uncertain times we cannot possibly guarantee a fair in 2020, know that your fair board and others are committed to go forward unless the Fair is deemed to pose a safety hazard to our exhibitors, fair workers, and public by the powers that be.

Through the Ohio Fair Managers Association we are in on-going discussions with the Department of Agriculture in order to assure the best possible outcome of this situation for all involved. We are also studying examples of alternative virtual activities and other innovative solutions from fairs in other parts of the country, who have already been affected by the COVID-19 virus. We are in discussions with our extension agent and educators and are collaborating on ways to offer alternative activities if the Fair cannot go forward.

Our primary focus at this time, must be to remain safe. Together we will conquer this enemy.

Sincerely,

Wade Crofoot
President