

EAU CLAIRE COUNTY FAIR MAKES MODIFICATIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

The Eau Claire County Fair has been a county tradition since 1924. Throughout its duration, the fair has received significant support from the county and community. Generations of families have been involved in the fair. It is recognized as a summer highlight for many youth and their families.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the safety and health of the general public, as well as our exhibitors and families, must be a foremost consideration. Therefore, the Eau Claire County Fair Committee has voted to continue the 2020 Eau Claire County Fair but with significant modifications.

In order to comply with Eau Claire County Health Department guidelines, the fair will not be open to the public. It is necessary to limit the number of people on the fairgrounds at one time. Open class judging is also canceled for the 2020 fair.

Families who choose to participate in the fair are asked to embrace the necessary changes and celebrate the opportunity for youth to display their projects. If a family does not feel comfortable participating at this year's fair, the Eau Claire County Fair Committee and Friends of the Fair will respect this choice and decision.

The fair will continue with the original dates of July 27 – August 2, 2020 at the Eau Claire County Exposition Center. Safety will be the foremost priority. Any person who participates will be required to follow strict adherence of all county and state COVID-19 recommendations and restrictions.

The Eau Claire County Fair Committee has decided that any youth exhibitor who is aging out of regular fair participation this year and enrolled in a 2020 project will be eligible to participate in the 2021 Eau Claire County Fair within the same project areas. This will be a one-year exception only for youth affected by the modification of the 2020 fair.

The Eau Claire County Fair Committee views this one-year modification as merely a bump in the road within the fair's long history. The fair committee already anticipates the return of a complete and exciting Eau Claire County Fair July 28-August 1, 2021 and promises it will include all the various highlights that people have come to expect and love! Meanwhile, the Eau Claire County Fair is #FairStrong. For more information, contact Debbie Kitchen, Eau Claire County Fair Coordinator at <u>eauclairefair@gmail.com</u> or 715.579.4703. More information will be sent out shortly.