E-blast May 21, 2015

Looking ahead... to the WAYNE COUNTY FAIR! (It’s only 81 days away!)
Hi All – Yesterday afternoon an announcement was made by NYS Ag and Markets to proactively ban all live poultry competitions from the NYS fair and all NYS county fairs as a result of Avian Flu outbreaks in the Midwest. The official announcement is below.

We know this will impact many of our 4-H families, but it is important to remember that this is an effort to keep all of our birds safe. We are currently brainstorming some additional opportunities for our poultry exhibitors to be able to highlight their poultry knowledge at our county fair. More information will be shared once things are finalized. Below is the official statement for NYS Ag and Markets.
Amy & Jessica

For Immediate Release: May 19, 2015

NEW YORK STATE PROACTIVELY BANS ALL FOWL COMPETITIONS AT THE GREAT NEW YORK STATE FAIR AND ALL COUNTY FAIRS TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST AVIAN FLU
Current Influenza Strains are No Threat to Humans

The New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets has issued an order banning all live fowl competitions at the Great New York State Fair and at all county fairs in New York, Commissioner of Agriculture Richard A. Ball announced today. The order is the direct result of the continuing spread of strains of highly pathogenic avian influenza in the Midwest.

“Avian influenza has not yet been detected in New York State, but it is a very serious threat to poultry and all breeds of fowl and is continuing to spread. Despite the efforts of the best poultry health experts in North America, we do not fully understand the cause of the rapid spread of this virus. This commonsense step will help limit the spread of the influenza to other farms and chickens,” said Commissioner Ball.

“Fowl at fairs come from many different farms. An infection in one farm’s fowl could spread easily and quickly to birds from other farms at fairs. If exposure to avian influenza virus happens at a fair, birds returning to their home farms will quickly spread the virus to many new locations. It’s critical to prevent this rapid dispersal of this disease, and this is an unfortunate but necessary action,” said Dr. Smith.

The ban covers all breeds of fowl, including chickens, pigeons, turkeys, pheasants, guinea fowl, bantam poultry, geese, and ducks. Exhibitors who have already registered fowl for the 2015 New York State Fair will be contacted and will receive a refund of their entry fees.

“This is a disappointment to us as well as to fairgoers and our exhibitors, who look forward to this competition every year. But we believe people understand that we are stewards of the
animals in our care and I know they understand that we’re doing what’s best for everyone, and especially for the birds,” said Troy Waffner, Acting Fair Director.

The Fair has already made plans to fill the space in the Poultry Barn normally used for displaying chickens with rabbits and caviies, and the daily rooster crowing contest will be replaced by a rabbit hopping demonstration on seven days. There will be a special demonstration on Tuesday, Sept. 1 of combing and cutting fur from angora rabbits and spinning the fur into yarn to make hats and mittens.

While the current strains of avian influenza circulating in the Midwest are extraordinarily deadly to birds, experts stress that the H5N2 and H5N8 strains are not a threat to humans. Officials stress that chicken and eggs are safe to eat. Food safety experts all recommend that chicken must be cooked to an internal temperature of 165 degrees and that raw poultry must be properly handled to protect against all types of food-borne illness. Inspectors from the New York State Department of Health are on-site throughout the Fair, performing daily inspections of food stands.

The ban extends to all chartered county fairs and youth fairs in New York State. There are 45 county fairs and 6 chartered youth shows for the fair season that runs from June through October.

“We believe the public will be very receptive to this. They know that we want to do the right thing. We want to do what we can to prevent the spread of this disease to our local farms,” said Doug Hanno, President of the New York State Association of Agricultural Fairs and an official of the Lewis County Fair.

Several states have banned poultry competitions and exhibitions at fairs, including West Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Dakota, and Minnesota. Ohio has banned poultry entries from states affected by the virus outbreak and may consider a complete ban on competitions and displays.

Avian influenza outbreaks are not uncommon, but the current outbreak is particularly deadly to birds. The outbreak is concentrated in two strains of influenza – H5N2 and H5N8. Influenza has been found on more than 170 farms in 20 states in the West, Midwest, and South and 2 Canadian provinces. More than 35 million birds have died or been euthanized as a result of what officials call the largest avian influenza outbreak in U.S. history.

New York has taken a strongly proactive stand with suppliers, distributors, and live bird markets in attempting to prevent the spread of avian influenza and prevent birds with influenza from crossing into the state. Bird flocks intended for the live bird sales market must test negative for avian influenza before they can move into the marketing system. Once birds are in the marketing system, state officials verify test records and monitor sanitation levels at the live bird markets.
Employees of the Department’s Division of Animal Industry routinely test poultry in live bird markets for avian influenza. In 2014, approximately 35,000 birds in the New York live bird marketing system were tested for the disease. Any bird that tests positive is traced back to its original flock to address possible infections. Any market that tests positive for influenza is depopulated of birds, and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. It cannot open until passing an inspection and test for avian influenza.

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Fair Clean-Up Wednesday May 27th 5:30-7pm. Join us in the 4-H building to get a jump start on cleaning up the fairgrounds. We will be doing some cleaning and painting, working to get the building into shape for the upcoming fair season. We will even have a light dinner for all of our helpers. Please RSVP to Margaret by 5/26 so we know how much food to get.


The Fair Teen Leader and Teen Assistant Application is on the website [www.ccewayne.org](http://www.ccewayne.org) and an email was sent to teens. If you are interested in applying please visit the website and see the information posted. If you have questions, please contact Jessica.

Dog Obedience Class

4H Dog Obedience classes will begin Thursday June 4, 2015 at 7pm. This is the "sign up" and informational meeting WITHOUT the dogs. Classes will run every Thursday evening 7-8pm at the CCE in the parking lot, weather permitting, until the Wayne County Fair, where the 4Hers can show their dogs. If you have questions please contact Kim Rouland at kimtimrouland@aol.

Forestry Workshop Part 2: Sunday June 7, 2015 (2:00-5:00 pm)

Learn tree identification, uses of wood, explore wildlife habitat, get ideas for fair entries, and have fun outside in the forest! (You didn’t have to attend Part 1 to join us in Part 2! Details and directions will be sent when you register.) Please email Barb McGuffie (bjm21@cornell.edu) or call the Yates County Cooperative Extension office (315-536-5123) if you plan to attend. Cost $2 per youth – pay at the walk. Anyone age 7 and under must be accompanied by an adult. (Rain date: June 14th)
Ontario County Sheep Clinic for Tuesday, June 9 beginning at 6:30. It will be held at Ethan Kennedy’s farm at 4975 Farmington Townline Road north of Canandaigua. Ethan is doing his last year in 4-H and has had a great experience showing sheep all over the northeast. Register with Ontario County 4-H at 585-394-3977 x 401 by June 5 if coming to the clinic. Bring your questions, not your sheep!

Wayne County 4-H is holding a summer day camp the week of July 20-24, 2015 at Beechwood State Park. Camp runs from 9a.m. to 3p.m. each day and costs $160. Counselors are 4-H teens who are developing their leadership skills. Special presenters come to camp and share their passion for natural resources topics including wildlife, fishing, rock collecting, and trees. Registration by June 15th is requested and space is limited, so it is suggested to register soon to secure a spot. Contact Susan Coyle at smc226@cornell.edu or 315-331-8415, ext. 218 for more information or to request a registration form.

The Junior DAIRY LEADER program to youth who are interested in exploring dairy careers and interested in leadership development along with career and college planning. Junior DAIRY LEADER is a yearlong program for young people, 16 to 19 years, who have an interest in learning more about careers in the dairy field, leadership development, and career and college planning. Applications are due June 30th, 2015. If you would like an application please contact Amy at anr32@cornell.edu

Mad Scientist Night June 22nd 6-8pm. $5/youth or $10/family. RSVP by June 15th to Margaret at mab567@cornell.edu. Come learn the ins and outs of aerospace, meteorology, chemistry, biology and physics! And be prepared to get MESSY! All ages are invited to attend. https://www.facebook.com/4hwaynecounty/photos/a.207333316003849.46715.157226741014507/829949360408905/?type=1&theater

For sale! Horse, cat, and cow skeleton. Horse and cat come in box, cow is small with skin on one side and skeleton on the other. $40 or best offer. Contact Dale Hansen, 315-462-2359 if you are interested!

The most recent edition of the World of Wayne can be found at http://blogs.cornell.edu/waynecce/program-areas/4-h-youth-development/

Have you visited our Facebook page? It is the most up-to-date source of information! https://www.facebook.com/4hwaynecounty

Calendar:

May 2015
May 27 – Fair Clean Up (Tentative)
May 30 – Spring Woodland Walk Rescheduled!
June 2015
June 4 – Fair Teen Leader Interviews
June 16 – Teen Council
June 17 – 4-H Advisory Committee Meeting
June 20 – Wayne County Pointed Horse Show
June 22 – Mad Scientist Night
June 29 – Pre-fair Meeting and Project Entry Demos
June 30-July 2 – Career Explorations

July 2015
July 6 – Fair entries are due!
July 9 – Meeting with Fair Teen Leaders and Superintendents
July 11-12 – Wayne County Pointed Horse Show
July 20-24 – 4-H Camp Beechwood

August 2015
August 5 – Fair Set Up
August 6 – Pre-Fair Judging
August 10-15 – Wayne County Fair
August 27-September 7 – New York State Fair

September 2015
September 4-7 – Wayne County Exhibits Judged at the New York State Fair and Teens Work in Booth
September 15 – Teen Council