



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## 2020 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair Canceled Due to COVID-19

**Kalamazoo, MI** — The 2020 Kalamazoo County Youth Fair scheduled for August 11-15 has been canceled due to COVID-19 concerns. Michigan State University Extension has made the decision to eliminate all face-to-face 4-H activities and programs until September 1 and this includes 4-H participation at Michigan County Fairs. Kalamazoo County Youth Fair organizers said that 4-H is such a strong partner and component of the youth fair that they cannot see a way forward without them.

According to Fair Coordinator Josh Gower, the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair's primary focus is celebrating local 4-H youth projects and programs. This includes all animal and livestock species programs, the 4H horse program, the 4H Livestock Auction, 4-H still exhibits, and the 4-H Food Booth. The 4-H participants and volunteers also provide countless hours towards the set-up and preparation of the fairgrounds for the annual event.

While this difficult decision is disappointing news for the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair, 4-H participants, and the community, it does provide ample time for us to seek alternative plans for some 4-H programs in 2020. Kalamazoo County and the Kalamazoo County Fair Council will be working closely with Michigan State University Extension staff and local 4-H volunteer leadership on finding new ways to continue and celebrate 4-H youth projects that were already underway for the 2020 County Fair. In addition, the Fair Council will immediately begin working on the future of the Kalamazoo County Youth Fair beyond 2020 and are looking forward to the day the public can safely return.

A link to the [Director of MSU Extension, Jeff Dwyer's](#) statement is attached below:

[www.canr.msu.edu/coronavirus/message-from-the-director-of-msu-extension-april-3-2020](http://www.canr.msu.edu/coronavirus/message-from-the-director-of-msu-extension-april-3-2020)

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