

GET THE FACTS

Frequently Asked Questions

April 29, 2021 Livestream

What was the most challenging part of pivoting during COVID-19 for 4-H?

For 4-H live and virtual components, over about 1 week, we went from doing things live over Facebook, to running into spotty internet at home, to doing Premiere and putting resources on YouTube. There was rapid innovation on all of these. And we had to take note, not all of our colleagues were ready to go virtual, but were able to help us in other ways from recording videos, etc. The amount of change we saw in those first 10 days were perhaps more change than we saw over 11 months.

(Chelsea Corkins)

Do you think you'll incorporate online programming into your offerings after the pandemic has come to an end?

When we shut down, my reaction was, how do we reach those families? Most of our high schools were using Canvas as a learning portal, so in Clay County, we started putting as much as we could on Canvas. What project lessons and what activities can we get to families quickly? Word got to the Missouri 4-H state office, and it became a statewide initiative. (I have to give a shout-out to the University's Canvas Team. They are amazing.) We opted into using one "course" for all of the 4-H projects. We chose one "course" or site on Canvas so families could access as many of the project resources in one space. We are seeing a huge volume usage on the site. So, this is an example of a reaction to COVID-19, that is becoming a longstanding part of what we offer in Missouri 4-H. (Sarah)

How can we help youth grow through the 4-H programs we offer?

We are very volunteer-focused who are interested in helping youth through leading 4-H projects, but what if the 4-H member is interested in entomology and you, the volunteer, know nothing about entomology? In the past, because in part of the number of volunteers countywide, our option for project leaders was to point them to the curriculum book and say "good luck." And now between what Sarah, Tanner and others across the state have put together, we now have the ability to take this project, put the content-expertise and technical knowledge back on us the specialists, provide that to the volunteer as a resource to use while leading the project. For instance, we have the ability to ask a Nutrition Specialist to record a short video on kitchen-knife safety to provide the volunteer leader that technical information readily so they can use that in a hands-on setting. So, we are really trying to capitalize on this ability to reach content experts across the state and share with local communities. The virtual options have allowed us to increase access to knowledge and perhaps making it a little easier on ourselves. (Chelsea)

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How can we help youth grow through the 4-H programs we offer? (Cont.)

For our regional energizer – large, multi-county event – we offered it virtually. Our registration process was the same, but we had to innovate on content delivery. Since going virtual was completely different from what our families were use to, we knew we had to add some “spice” to the virtual format, so we implemented a couple of new things. For one, we brought in a guest speaker, which we have never done. He had a great skill set as a virtual presenter. Having him allowed us (specialists) the freedom to develop more of the backend tasks of the virtual presentation. What we see with our in-person Energizers is that we have families that come back each year, which is great. The cool thing about the virtual format is it removes the travel aspect of attending a regional event, and as a result, we saw a number of new families. We are accessing a new population, a more diverse population than before, and we saw an increase in participation overall. We were nervous at first going virtual, but found that it didn’t hinder us at all, and our evaluations were positive. We’ll continue to look at including a virtual option for future Energizers and other 4-H programs. (Tanner)

Did you notice a reduction in participation throughout the pandemic or did more 4-H’ers than normal tune in virtually?

We had some great success stories. We are accessing different youth and volunteers, and that is the important part to remember -- We have a lot of great content, and it is great our returning members come back each year, but we always want to reach more. Going forward, the hybrid model will be a part of 4-H. Hands-on is important. We want to get back to that and having that hybrid model to access the extra resources can enhance our programs. (Tanner).

Yes, we lost numbers. People were tired of screen-time. They were also attending school online or church online, and so on. And we also found some new people who we couldn’t reach out to before. We are all learning as we go. There are positives take-aways from our experience (Sarah)

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Have you seen virtual members convert into in-person members? or is it too soon to tell?

We don't have that information yet. As we are just now getting back to face-to-face, many virtual 4-H participants haven't had the opportunity to try in-person 4-H. When we start a new model, I always emphasize we are not starting a new model to make them join the previous model. We are creating a model that fits the youth. So, if they are an after school 4-H participant or virtual, and they choose to join a community-based 4-H club, that is great. We are creating the new models to serve as another 4-H options alongside. They can be a community-club member, an after school program 4-H member or virtual members, and we love that. My intent for starting a new model is to serve a need or fill a program gap. (Sarah)

Numbers are always something we strive for. We also look at quality and feasibility of what we are doing. I'll give the example of embryology that we offer to our local classrooms. Last year we did in-person presentations for about three classrooms a day. I cover three counties and scheduling was challenging. This year, we did the presentations virtually and were able to do eight in one day. With travel and school schedules, that would not have been possible without a virtual option. How do we increase quality while increasing numbers? I can now take on more classrooms for those virtual presentations. While it may be too soon to tell if those numbers will materialize, but we have seen an increase in what we are able to achieve and a decrease in some of the barriers that were there before (scheduling and traveling) (Chelsea)

Lynelle, for those who are more hesitant with the J&J vaccine despite the facts, do you think communities will eventually have the option to get J&J, Pfizer or Moderna depending on their preference?

Yes, most pharmacies give you the option which vaccine you would like to get. They are all very comparable in terms of effectiveness. However, some people might have a preference since they have different schedules. (Pfizer is 2 doses three weeks apart, Moderna is 2 doses four weeks apart and J&J is one dose).

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Are the YouTube videos Chelsea spoke about something we can promote on our social media sites for MU Extension County pages or were they timely and not relevant as we go further along?

When recording videos, leave the date out or which week of COVID we were in (smiles). The content is still applicable. We kept our content in line with 4-H curriculum and found that a youth is really interested in the topic, that is an opportunity to go to the 4-H site and find more information about the topic. For the videos, yes, they can be promoted on county Facebook pages and social media. There are close to 45 videos in total. They can be found on YouTube through searching for "Missouri 4-H Live," and here is a direct link to the Missouri 4-H Live playlist. (Chelsea)

You can also find these on our Missouri 4-H website under Resources, then Branding Toolkit, thanks to Sherry's "branding brilliance" you can find links to these plus the Missouri 4-H and the MU Extension YouTube channels, which host these videos, as well. (Sarah)

Lynelle are there still studies being conducted to see if individuals younger than 18 can get the vaccine?

Yes! Since our last Livestream, Pfizer is now approved for 12 – 15 year olds! Eventually the FDA would like to license vaccines for everyone 6 months old or older. The next group will be 5 – 11 year olds, then 2 – 5 year olds, then 6 months – 2 year olds. Lower ages will take longer to complete trials and license as standard dosing for adults will have to be adjusted for small children. Trials will include finding the best dose for younger age groups, as well as testing safety and efficacy.

Did the CDC update their masking recommendations? I thought I saw vaccinated individuals might not have to wear a mask in uncrowded areas? Is this true?

The CDC has updated their masking recommendations again since our last Livestream.

Livestream Answers Provided By:

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