



# AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT EXETER UNION HIGH SCHOOL

April 16, 2020

To all Exeter FFA Members,

We hope that this letter finds you well and that you are adjusting to the new normal of being safe at home with your families. It is a difficult time for all and we continue to make the adjustments needed to keep our students and community safe. As we move into an extended school closure, we are aware of the changes and impacts to current and future livestock, plant and mechanics projects as well as the use of the Exeter High School Farm. Below is our plan to decrease the financial risk and hardship that some of you may face during this facility lock down.

Based on the current "Shelter in Place" orders the shop, farm facility and fair projects will operate as follows:

- The farm facility and shop will remain closed at this time until further notice
- Students may make arrangements to remove their assets from the farm and/or shop
- Students who wish to raise livestock must secure their own animal and their own housing
- Students will need to provide all financial and feed obligations on their own to support their animal project
- Advisors will be available to give you information on market animal vendors
- Advisors will not be securing any deposits or animals for purchase
- Financial support will not be available through the Exeter Ag. Boosters

Should the "Shelter in Place" order be lifted on or before the end of the school year, the district administration will determine if the farm facility will open. If the farm facility is opened:

- Farm and Shop access may be restricted or limited based on State and District provisions for groups and meetings
- If time permits, a student may purchase a project on their own and move it to the farm facility no later than July 13th.
- Students who need help acquiring an animal could seek additional help from their advisor
- If time permits to secure an animal group, as has happened in the past, the advisors will collect deposits and move forward as possible
- Those needing housing at the school farm could secure a spot at this time
- Students who were securing their own animal and were housing it elsewhere could move their animal to the farm



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- The farm will operate as normal once ALL RESTRICTIONS are lifted by the Exeter Unified School District and State of California and the advisors are given clearance to do so

We realize that these measures might prevent a student from being able to raise livestock or complete a project as normal. We also know that this is not ideal but are certain that this plan will help protect our students in making sound decisions. The situation is fluid at this time and we hope that we can continue to provide this unique opportunity for students to complete projects and raise livestock in the coming weeks.

## The Tulare County Fair:

COVID-19 has had a direct effect on the closing of many fairs and shows across the country. Although there is no plan for the Tulare County Fair to close at this time, it is possible that a later decision could be made by the State that the Tulare County Fair not be held this year. Livestock projects would in turn not be shown, nor sold as normal. The project would be the sole responsibility of the exhibitor to sell. Any profit or loss from this project would of course fall to the student.

As advisors, we cannot lead you in one direction or another in selecting an animal for the Tulare County Fair. We can advise you that great consideration be taken into account before you choose to move forward. Our assistance, though limited by the current policies, is available and we will do all we can to support you and your project from now through the summer and fall.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach an advisor by email.

Sincerely,

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