***Montgomery County 4-H Fair Association***

410 Peter Pan Road, Suite B

Independence, KS 67301

620-331-2690

Dear county fair rabbit exhibitor,

“Rabbit Hemorrhagic Disease Virus Serotype 2 is a highly contagious and fatal disease of domestic rabbits and wild rabbits of the genus Oryctolagus. At this time RHDV2 has **not yet been reported in domestic or wild rabbits in Kansas**.” – Kansas Department of Agriculture June 22, 2020

A fact sheet over RHDV2 can be found at: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/publications/animal_health/fs-rhdv2.pdf>

The Montgomery County 4-H Fair Board and rabbit superintendents are aware of the RHDV2 situation and are constantly monitoring the situation. The county fair rabbit show in Independence, KS on July 23rd will currently happen as normal with extra precautions due no cases of this rabbit disease in Kansas. Superintendents and the fair board have worked to put extra precautions in place and reserve the right to switch to plan B outlined below at any time should the situation change.

**Precautions families should start taking immediately include:**

* Limit pet and/or show rabbits contact with the ground
	+ Work with animals on a table or inside a building.
* Limit wild rabbits’ ability to come near your rabbits
* When coming home from a show quarantine traveling rabbits away from others for at least 9 days.
	+ Wash hands between handling the different sets of rabbits or change gloves
	+ The virus can travel on your shoes and clothing so limit contact with rabbits, clean, or find ways to cover yourself
* Do NOT loan equipment to other members this year
* At shows do NOT get your rabbit out of the carrier to play on the ground or let other youth/people hold/play with your rabbit (remember the virus can be on clothes and shoes)
* Go prepared with a table to set your carrier on if the show doesn’t provide one – to keep your rabbit off the ground
	+ Be prepared to keep your rabbit cool in the carrier
* It is recommended to NOT house your animals overnight at a show (especially if you plan to bring those same animals to county fair)

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 **Precautions for Show Day at the County Fair**

* Families have the right to not bring their rabbit to fair but at this time there is no alterative showing option. We respect your decision and look forward to seeing you again next year!
* BEFORE coming to the fair clean carriers, shoes, etc. to remove all mud, dirt, etc.
* Be prepared to come a little early, there will be a vet checkpoint located by the road
	+ All rabbits must be cleared by the vet before entering the fairgrounds
	+ Location will be clearly marked and communicated with everyone that pre-registers a rabbit on fair entry
	+ Vet will change gloves and disinfect between checking rabbits
* No health papers will be required due to the vet service – please thank them!
* **There will be a table set up for each rabbit exhibitor, no need to bring one**
	+ Place all your carriers on the same table and do not set them on the ground
* Families should bring their own carpet square for their tables for judging on their table
	+ We will not use the rabbit show table this year
	+ Anyone needing help finding a carpet square to use should call Katie Townsend at 620-778-4616 for assistance
* Judge is aware of safety precautions and has the right to change judging techniques slightly as they see fit
* Judge will change clothes and disinfect between each table

**Plan B**

If it becomes necessary to switch to plan B the fair board working with the superintendents have the right to make that call at any time. We will adjust show date if necessary to give youth time to work on the project outlined below.

PowerPoint or Poster Board presentation outlining. Presentations will be done in person and judged as a talk would be at county club days. Score card coming

* What their project is this year
* How many rabbits, ages, breeds, and if they raised them
* Biggest challenges faced and how they overcame them
* How they worked to make their rabbit project better this year
* Plans for next year
* Favorite part of the rabbit project
* Explain precautions using to protect rabbits at home due to virus
* Etc.