

**\*March 18, 2020 Updated COVID-19 Message\***  
**Please disregard all previous information.**

Dear Purdue Extension Elkhart County Community,

I wanted to bring you the latest updated information how the COVID-19 situation is affecting the Extension Office, our programs and events. As you know this situation is unprecedented and fluid. We are following the guidelines provided to us by Purdue University and the Elkhart County Government. I realize that you are going to have many questions, please know that we are working on answers and solutions. We will bring that information to you once we have the answers.

Today on March 18, 2020, we received an email from Dr. Karen Plaut, Glenn W. Sample, Dean of Agriculture, that all Extension Events and programs will not be held face-to-face until May 17, 2020. At this time, starting May 18, 2020, we can hold face-to-face meetings. Note that this will include all 4-H events, Extension Homemaker events and Master Gardner events. We will be working on setting up video conferencing for committees and other groups that need to meet.

I know that this will pose challenges on many fronts from our livestock ID days, to flower fundraisers for the 4-H program and many others. We will be extending our deadlines for programs where necessary. Please know that we are working to get those in order. We will be sending updates when we have more information. Please hold off on contacting your club leaders; they are awaiting answers as well.

The Purdue Extension Elkhart County office is currently open for business. For the health and safety of our clients and staff, during this time we prefer to assist you via the phone or email as we are practicing social distancing. If you are coming into our office we ask that you please wait in our reception area for a staff member to assist you. For a complete staff listing click here: <https://extension.purdue.edu/elkhart/about>

If you would like further information on COVID-19 please visit the websites of the CDC or Indiana State Department of Health at:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>  
<https://www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm>

We are told that this situation is fluid and being watched closely. Updates and changes may occur. Please note that we will share with you any information that we receive.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and assistance in following the guidelines provided. Please contact Robert Kelly if you have any questions: [kelly115@purdue.edu](mailto:kelly115@purdue.edu) or 574.533.0554.

Regards,

Robert Kelly  
County Extension Director  
Extension Educator | 4-H Youth Development | ANR-Livestock