

**VAN BUREN YOUTH FAIR ASSOCIATION**  
**“The Fair with a Future”**  
**PO Box 271**  
**Hartford, MI 49057**

**269-621-2038**

[www.vanburenyouthfair.com](http://www.vanburenyouthfair.com)

May 27, 2020

To: Superintendents, Volunteers, Vendors, Sponsors, Committee Chairpersons and other Interested Parties

The Van Buren Youth Fair Board of Directors has made the exceedingly difficult decision to cancel the in-person fair scheduled for July 20-25, 2020 as well as all activities scheduled at the fairgrounds through August 2020. This decision has been made in the best interest for the health and safety of our Van Buren County Youth exhibitors and all others who participate in our fair experience. The decision was based on talks with the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department, as well as a myriad of other factors and considerations.

The Van Buren Youth Fair Board reviewed Governor Whitmer’s MI SAFE START plan to re-engage Michigan’s economy and the requirements necessary to host in-person events that include, but are not limited to, social distancing in buildings, barns, concessionaire and midway areas, as well as face masks, in addition to many other restrictions. With these strict requirements, the Fair Board feels that it is not logistically feasible to host a fair this year. This decision was not made without due consideration. It was a grueling and complex decision, but the only appropriate decision for the in-person 2020 fair. The Fair Board is still researching and considering all virtual options. We will provide everyone with the information as it is available.

A county fair of one type or another in Van Buren County can trace its beginnings back nearly 170 years. Although it was not known as a county fair, the first mention of a fair came during the summer of 1851, when the Van Buren Agricultural Society was formed. During the 1940s, fair officials were faced with a similar decision to cancel the fair for a period of time as the former fairgrounds, located in downtown Hartford, were converted into a POW Camp. We look forward to 2021 and the return of a deeply-rooted county tradition, the 2021 Van Buren Youth Fair.

Sincerely,

The Van Buren Youth Fair Board of Directors