Dear Extension Clients, 4-Her's and 4-H families,

I know that right now, we are all trying to adjust to the sudden changes happening in our lives. The past few weeks and the spread of the COVID-19 virus has left us all overwhelmed. The Barrow County Extension/4-H Office wants to assure you that the safety and well-being of our 4-Her's, Extension Clients, Staff, and our family's health are our top priority. To help limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), effective Thursday, March 18, 2020, The Barrow County Extension/4H Office will be closed to public walk-ins until further notice. Extension services will be available online and by phone. If you need to drop off a soil or water sample, please reach out to us at 770-307-3029 or uge1013@uga.edu for instructions on how this will happen during this closure.

Per our state staff as long as the local school district is not operating, we cannot hold any local face to face 4-H activities. We are, however, exploring ways that we can digitally provide 4-H opportunities for our 4-Hers. State and local staff are monitoring this situation very closely. They are following the recommendations of the CDC and other officials.

Some local and state 4-H activities have been canceled. We are trying to take this week by week as we feel that the programs we offer are needed, and we want to get back to them as soon as it is safely possible. There are a lot of unanswered questions about Project SAFE (Shotgun and Archery). State 4-H staff are currently looking at the Project SAFE programming this season. They should be sending out more information soon. We were informed today that State 4-H Senior Conference April 4th and 5th is canceled for this year. We will keep you all updated as we get information and guidance from District and State Staff about 4-H programs.

At this time, our summer has not been canceled. We are working to put together a fun and educational summer program series for you all to participate in this summer. According to Mr. Charlie, "4-H Camps will not be canceled unless it is determined that holding camp would not be in the best interest of public health and safety.", and "we must proceed like camp will go on as planned, or we will all be caught… not having made the necessary preparations for camp when it does go on." If you need to make a camp payment, you may use our drop box at the front of the building or mail your payment to Barrow County Extension/4-H at 90 Lanthier St. Winder, GA 30680. We also now have an online option at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/payments-for-barrow-county-4-h-camps-tickets-100412488456.

Please visit this local Barrow County Coronavirus (COVID-19) Informational Resource Website https://barrowfamilyconnection.org/barrow-county-covid-19-resources/. Please stay safe and practice the guidelines set forth by the CDC to lessen the spread of the virus and protect those most vulnerable.

Barrow County Extension 4-H Staff