



Ag-Ed Instructors and FFA supporters:

The Governor issued an Executive Order 2020-08 declaring an emergency caused by the impending threat of COVID-19 to the people of this State and the public's peace, health, and safety. To ensure we are being proactive to address this impending threat, tough decisions are having to be made everywhere, and the same goes for us in the FFA world. No easy way to break the news. So, let's just get to it:

State FFA Interscholastics for all non-national qualifying CDE/LDE events for 2020 will be canceled. This includes the following:

- Agricultural Education
- Animal Science Quiz Bowl
- Electricity
- Entomology
- Freshman Agriscience Quiz Bowl
- Homesite Judging (*Natl Contest Canceled*)
- Land Judging (*Natl Contest Canceled*)
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Rangeland Judging (*Natl Contest Canceled*)
- Turfgrass Management

The rest of the contests are postponed and will remain pending. *This includes all region, area and state public speaking, parliamentary procedure, agriscience fair, and star contests.* None of these events will happen in-person until after the [Center for Disease Control](#) guidelines allow. We are evaluating the ability to conduct these virtually, where applicable. More details to follow.

Now on to convention. In accordance with the [CDC](#) guidelines the determination has been made to cancel the annual state FFA convention on the original dates of April 28-29. We are currently in the process of looking into the possibility of a pared-down event at the Cox Convention Center or another venue in late May or early June. Obviously, many variables will go into making the decision on whether that happens. If we are unable to hold an event in the summer, we will elect state officers digitally and pass out awards at agricultural instructors' area meetings.

Planning a convention of this size and scope requires a lot of planning with hotels, presenters, and staff. Many who require deposits well in advance. In the event of a complete cancelation, we will refund when and where we can. We will start with reimbursing all Expo Booth exhibitors immediately.

The State Board of Education voted March 16 for all accredited public schools to cease operations to include all instructional services, grading and extracurricular activities, staff development, trainings or conferences, but essential clerical and administrative activities such as business management, nutrition services, maintenance may continue. Please be sure that during this time that your chapter is neither hosting nor attending an extracurricular event unless approved by your local administration.

This is a difficult letter to write. I am devastated for the state officer team and FFA members across the state, who I know have put in months of preparation and intense work. ***But the safety and security of students, educators and staff is a top priority.***

Difficult times for all. Thanks in advance for your patience and understanding. Keep your heads up, and press on.

Trevor Lucas

FFA Executive Secretary

