

On March 11th when we received the news that the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo was sending exhibitors home and canceling the entire show, I never imagined we would be facing a similar situation today. I was a firm believer COVID-19 was not going to shut down our livestock show. The past three weeks have been a whirlwind filled with lots of emotions. We have been asked to follow guidelines set forth by President Trump & Texas Governor Abbott and our organization appreciates their concerns and guidance.

We published a Plan of Action on March 26th outlining three scenarios for the 2020 WCYF. In light of the guidelines set forth by Governor Abbott on March 31st, the WCYF executive board has been forced to move forward with Plan C and cancel our livestock and creative arts shows. This decision is one that hits me as the President of the WCYF very hard. I have publically said many times I do not want to cancel our fair. As a parent, this decision is just as hard for me to accept. I have two sons, a senior and a sophomore. We have had our projects for well over 8 months, with time and money invested, as many of us do. I truly feel bad for all exhibitors. To our first-year exhibitors who looked forward to experiencing the fair for the first time, we can only apologize. I say please dream big and come back next year. To all of our senior exhibitors, there are no words that will make this easier. You all have had to experience things this year that many never imagined we would ever see. Life is full of lessons, some lessons of learning, some lessons failures, lessons of hardship, lessons of success and lessons of faith. As you are faced with this lesson in life, I ask you all to do one thing: Keep the Faith. All we can do at this time is once again say we are sorry.

I would like to thank the executive board for their hard work and dedication to the WCYF the past month. The decisions we have been forced to make have been ones of great difficulty. I thank you all for your support and passion for this great organization.

We are still working out details for an online sale of some sort, so please be patient. We will make that public as soon as we are able to. Exhibitors are encouraged to continue feeding their animals until a plan of action for the online sale has been established.

Rodney Jedlicka
WCYF President