



April 2017

Dear 4-H Families:

Many 4-H clubs find themselves in charge of food at concessions and meetings throughout the year. It is important that we all understand the food safety codes and guidelines especially when preparing food for the public.

When serving food for the public, it is imperative that you contact Austin Moyer, County Sanitarian, to obtain a food permit. His number is 466-2150.

Any club in charge of concessions or buyer's reception must contact the Sanitarian independently. Once you obtain the food permit, **follow the guidelines outlined by state laws and regulations. For instance, when serving food to the public, any TCS (Temperature Control for Safety) food must be prepared on-site in a licensed or licensable kitchen.** Many churches in the county have licensable kitchens. To give a specific example, all meat being prepared for the public must be prepared in the kitchen at the Pavilion or in another similar kitchen. Hamburgers and hot dogs can be cooked on outdoor grills. Also, any meat used to be served to the public has to be from a State Dept. of Livestock or USDA inspected facility. Additionally, many common foods need to be time temperature controlled for safety (TCS foods). Please see other food safety information on our website at <http://www.msuextension.org/teton/4HFair.html> Poor personal hygiene is the number one cause of food borne illnesses. Improper cooking, cooling and reheating of foods can create many safety concerns. **For this reason, 4-H clubs should minimize foods containing potentially hazardous items or prepare them according to guidelines at a licensable facility.**

Please study food safety information carefully, apply best practices and be certain to **contact the county sanitarian when you are preparing food for public consumption.** It is best to be educated before the event and prepare food properly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jane Wolery'.

Jane Wolery
MSU Extension Educator
Teton County

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