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| To: | Idaho Agriculture Education Teachers |
| From:  | Marvin Heimgartner, Senior Instructor, Dept. of Soil and Water Systems |
| CC:  | Dr. Jim Connors, Head, Dept. of Ag and Extension EducationDr. Jodi Johnson-Maynard, Head, Dept. of Soil and Water SystemsDr. Matt Doumit, Associate Dean of Academic Programs, College of Ag and Life Sciences |
| Date: | June 1, 2021 |
| Re: | Ag Mechanics CDE |
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I understand that several of you have concerns regarding our not offering the skills portion of the Small Engines and Electricity components of the Ag Mechanics CDE this year. Please allow me the opportunity to explain.

It has been communicated to all faculty members of the University of Idaho that COVID 19 protocols are mostly unchanged for the summer (although masks are no longer required), and that events and field camps must follow university protocols. These protocols include social distancing and limiting the number of people in a given space. I am confident that we will be able to follow these protocols in the welding, tool reconditioning/metal ID, tool and hardware ID, and small engines and electricity problem solving events. However, given the limitations of the JML facility and the layout and configuration of small engines and electricity skills, I cannot ensure that we would be able to adhere to the University’s COVID 19 protocols in these events. As a UI faculty member and the Ag Mechanics CDE Superintendent, I am obligated to make every effort to ensure that protocols are followed and to encourage all aspects of safety for our guests on campus.

While I do think that we will be able to follow protocols in JML for the Ag Mechanics CDE, there will be some challenges. The line-up prior to the CDE, entering and exiting the building, and instructions prior to each event all have potential to compromise social distancing. Please remind your students that social distancing should be maintained.

Historically, the faculty of the Ag. Systems Management program and the secondary Agriculture Education teachers in Idaho have had a strong relationship, and it is my hope that this continues. I look forward to seeing you next week. If you would like to further discuss this or any aspects of the Ag Mechanics CDE, please feel free to contact me at mheim@uidaho.edu or 208-885-6025 (office) or 208-790-0947 (cell).