



Michigan 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop February 22-23, 2014

Audience

This workshop is open to teen (aged 13 and older) and adult leaders involved with beef, sheep, and swine projects. 106 total participants attended - 28 males and 78 females representing 23 counties. 59 youth participated along with 47 adults. 71% of the evaluation respondents were first-time participants.

Funding

Sponsorship was made possible by GreenStone Farm Credit Services and the Michigan Pork Producers Association and by generous donations to the Michigan 4-H Foundation. There was also a \$56.75 participant fee.

Objectives

This conference is designed to:

- Teach skills in areas of practical livestock production and management.
- Develop communication skills and leadership techniques for participants in order to more effectively re-teach skills in the county.
- Offer an opportunity to share with others programs that have been successful in other counties.
- Develop methods to encourage youth and their families to participate in 4-H clubs and other Extension activities.

Description

Participants had 8 contact hours with 6 MSU faculty along with 14 industry representatives and other volunteer resource people.

The attendees spent 2 days exploring ideas, research and hands-on activities relating to livestock projects. Youth and adult participants were given the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions: State 4-H Awards Program, Marketing your Livestock Project, Livestock Judging & Animal Selection, Year in the Life of a Club: Activities throughout the year, Low Stress Animal Handling, EPD's: What are they & why should you care?, Common Diseases, Treatment & First Aid, Meats Judging & Evaluation, Livestock Photography & Ad Promotion, and Resource Search & Anywhere Animal Science Lessons.

Attendees were also able to participate in a Biosecurity session, Livestock Quiz Bowl, become certified in Youth Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus. Additionally, participants were separated into groups to work through a county exchange session titled, "How do you promote agriculture every day?". Resources from the exchange are included in this [MSUE news article](#).

Impacts

- 100% of the participants agreed or strongly agreed that they were more knowledgeable about animal sciences.
- 95% said they felt more knowledgeable about entrepreneurship and career opportunities for youth to pursue in science related fields.
- 99% plan on applying the science knowledge and skills from this workshop.
- 75% indicated that this training helped them understand how to teach youth using a hands-on "learning-by-doing" approach.
- 71% indicated that after this training they understood how to teach youth using an inquiry "question-asking" approach.

Participant Comments

"This 4-H workshop was beneficial due to the fact that I learned news techniques to apply to my 4-H animal projects."

~ Oceana County Youth

"This workshop was beneficial because the presenters brought up many ideas that I could implement to my county and club."

~ Shiawassee County Youth

"I feel better prepared to help our group have a solid program this year. Glad to have updates/changes explained and spelled out. Great curriculum additions."

~ Kent County Volunteer

Contact Information

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