



Michigan 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp

June 27 - July 1, 2016

Audience

The 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp is open to youth 13-16 years of age. This year, 193 applications were received by the April 1 deadline. Of these youth, 60 were invited to camp by a 5-member selection committee. Within these 60, 24 Michigan (MI) counties were represented, as well as counties in California, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Ohio, Virginia and Puerto Rico. Of the 60, 56.6% were MI 4-H members, 18.3% were males and 23.3% were identified as people of color.

Funding

This program is fee-based with a \$30,000+ budget. The program received monetary donations from the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), MSU Department of Animal Science (ANS), and Michigan Milk Producers Association.

Objectives

This youth camp is designed to:

- Provide youth opportunities to explore fields relating to animal and veterinary medicine.
- Develop problem solving and critical thinking skills through hands-on research activities.
- Gain animal handling experiences.
- Improve communication and decision making skills.

Description

Throughout the week, numerous faculty, staff and students from MSU Extension, the MSU ANS and MSU CVM assisted with the daily program. Additionally, guest speakers included staff from the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, other MSU colleges, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The camp also interacted with three staff from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

MI Veterinary Medical Association's "Science, Animals, Medicine, and You!" team members lead hands-on activities for the youth including physical exams on both small and large animals, first aid, and suturing. These activities provided a chance for youth to learn basic skills needed in animal and veterinary science careers.

Campers toured various MSU Facilities, including the Dairy, Equine, Sheep, and Swine Teaching and Research Centers, and the CVM Veterinary Medical Center. Hands-on activities were part of each farm tour to enhance the learning experience.

Youth increased their knowledge as well as gained valuable teamwork and leadership skills through a case study activity. Groups were provided with real-life scenarios in which an animal had fallen ill of a potentially zoonotic disease. Participants researched the disease and put together professional presentations about how to manage the animal and provide the necessary treatment to the animal while attempting to prevent a zoonotic disease occurrence. At the end of the week, the presentations were evaluated by staff from MSU, MDHHS and MDARD.

Impacts

- 100% of youth agreed or strongly agreed that they were more knowledgeable about animal and veterinary science after attending camp.
- 98.1% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they felt more knowledgeable about entrepreneurship and career opportunities in animal and veterinary science-related fields after completion of camp.
- 98.1% of participants agreed or strongly agreed the camp increased their knowledge of the different majors, career paths, and opportunities available at MSU.
- 100% of youth plan to apply the animal and veterinary science knowledge they gained.

Youth Participant Comments:

"This camp has expanded my horizons with regards to what my future career could be. No longer is it veterinarian or nothing for me, it is now veterinarian or vet tech or wildlife rehabilitator or equine specialist or nutritionist. There are so many more options that I had never considered before, but which are definitely options that I'm now considering."

"This camp was beneficial to my understanding of Animal Science and similar careers by showing me different species as well as exposing me to different parts of the veterinary career. Going through stations at the dairy farm greatly expanded my view of large animal practices and has revealed to me that perhaps large-animal veterinary is where I would like to go."

"The most interesting thing I learned at this camp was how vital teamwork and communication is to being a vet or any other science related career."

"This camp has opened my mind to various careers and majors related to animal sciences, and also allowed me to develop or enhance vital skills like communication. I've also been impacted in that I firmly believe now that I want to be a vet and will be able to make that happen."

Contact Information

Julie Thelen, MSU Extension Educator
4-H Livestock and Veterinary Science
Phone: 517-432-1626 Email: thelenju@anr.msu.edu