



Michigan 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp

June 23-27, 2014

Audience

The 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp is open to youth 13-16 years of age. This year, 124 youth submitted applications by the deadline. Of these youth, 30 were selected by a 5-member selection committee. Within these 30, 17 Michigan counties were represented, as well as counties in Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Kentucky. Of the 30, 63% were 4-H members, 13% were males and 23% were of color.

Funding

This program is fee-based with a \$10,000+ budget. The program received monetary donations from the Michigan State University Department of Animal Science, Michigan 4-H 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 the MSU Department of Animal Science and MSU College of Veterinary Medicine assisted with the daily program. Additionally, guest speakers included staff from the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, MSU Extension, Capital Area Humane Society and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

During the week members from the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association's "Science, Animals, Medicine, and You!" team lead hands-on activities for the youth including frog dissections, physical exams on small 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, Sheep, and Poultry Teaching and Research Centers, the Diagnostics Center for Population and

Animal Health and the College of Veterinary Medicine Veterinary Medical Center.

Youth increased their knowledge as well as gained valuable teamwork and leadership skills by working through an assigned case study throughout the week. 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 judged by American Association of Bovine Practitioners President, Dr. Daniel Grooms and State Veterinarian, Dr. James Averill.

Impacts

- 100% of youth agreed or strongly agreed that they were more knowledgeable about animal and veterinary science after attending camp.
- 100% 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.
- 100% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they want to learn more about animal and veterinary science.
- 97% of youth plan to apply the animal and veterinary science knowledge they gained.

Participant Comments:

"This camp really opened my eyes as to how many different careers are involved in animal science."

"This camp was beneficial because it gave me an idea of what classes to take and what kind of jobs there are in veterinary science. It also showed me what to expect in college."

"I have learned about teamwork, responsibilities, and many other things. I learned many skills specific to veterinarians, such as suturing, examination procedures, and diseases."

Contact Information

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