



Michigan 4-H Animal & Veterinary Science Camp

June 15-19, 2015

Audience

The 4-H Animal and Veterinary Science Camp is open to youth 13-16 years of age. This year, 190 applications were received by the April 17 deadline. Of these youth, 40 were invited to camp by a 5-member selection committee. Within these 40, 24 Michigan (MI) counties were represented, as well as counties in Florida, Illinois, Ohio, and Virginia. Of the 40, 57.5% were MI 4-H members, 15% were males and 20% were identified as people of color.

Funding

This program is fee-based with a \$12,000+ budget. The program received monetary donations from the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), MSU Department of Animal Science (ANS), 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 MSU Extension, the MSU Department of 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, and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

MI Veterinary Medical Association's "Science, Animals, Medicine, and You!" team members lead hands-on activities for the youth including frog dissections, 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, the Diagnostics Center for Population and Animal Health 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 State Veterinarian, Dr. James Averill, Associate Dean Professional Academic Programs and Student Affairs for MSU CVM, Dr. Julie Funk, and MSU CVM Department Chairperson for Large Animal Clinical Sciences, Dr. Daniel Grooms.

Impacts

- 97.5% of youth agreed or strongly agreed that they were more knowledgeable about animal and veterinary science after attending camp.
- 97.5% 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.
- 100% of youth plan to apply the animal and veterinary science knowledge they gained.

Youth Participant Comments:

"It has influenced me to become more active in animal-related projects now, to better prepare myself for future college classes and accomplishments."

"I learned a lot about the determination and persistence that it takes to go into the veterinary field. I've realized that you'll often be discouraged by the time and effort it takes, but now I'm convinced that with the right attitude, you can pursue those dreams."

"This camp has impacted me by widening my view of the diversity of animal sciences."

"I believe it has opened my eyes to the many different paths I could choose for my career. I have a lot to think about concerning applying to college now."

Contact Information

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