



Michigan 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop February 28-March 1, 2015

Audience

This workshop was open to teen (aged 13 and older) and adult leaders involved with beef, sheep, and swine projects. 145 total participants attended - 30 males and 115 females representing 28 counties. 81 youth participated along with 64 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 \$61.25 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 10 contact hours with 6 MSU faculty along with 12 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: Animals Dollars & Sense, Livestock Judging and Animal Selection, Beef Project Management, Meat Judging and Evaluation, Sheep Project Management, Swine Project Management, Marketing Your Livestock Project, 4-H Life Skills: Hands On, Minds On. Attendees were also able to participate in a Form to Function keynote presentation, Livestock related games, Resource Fair and become certified in Youth Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus. Additionally, participants were separated into groups to work through a county exchange session titled, "Practicing Biosecurity & Preventing Zoonotic Diseases."

Resources from the county exchange are included in a MSUE news article.

Impacts

82 participants completed the evaluation representing 57% of the workshop attendees.

- 98% of the participants agreed or strongly agreed that they were more knowledgeable about animal sciences.
- 96% said they felt more knowledgeable about entrepreneurship and career opportunities for youth to pursue in science related fields.
- 98% plan on applying the science knowledge and skills from this workshop.
- 92% indicated that this training helped them understand how to teach youth using a hands-on "learning-by-doing" approach.
- 91% indicated that after this training they understood how to teach youth using an inquiry "question-asking" approach.

Participant Comments

"I believe that it was beneficial because now I have learned more about structure and livestock. In addition, I enjoyed learning about new marketing strategies for my livestock projects."

~ Ogemaw County Youth

"This workshop was very helpful! It opened my mind to all new ideas and possibilities of a career."

~ Iosco County Youth

"I have learned so much more about livestock management and the judging of animal quality."

~ Mecosta County Youth

"This 4-H workshop was very beneficial. There was so much information given that I will be able to use back in our home county."

~ VanBuren County Volunteer

Contact Information

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