

IMPACT

University of Idaho
Extension

Eastern District 4-H Youth Development
208.317.4375
500 Pocatello Ave., American Falls, ID 83211

Youth learn real life skills through livestock day camps

AT A GLANCE

Youth apply hands-on practices for financial management, public speaking and healthy living, through their livestock projects at day camps.

The Situation

Livestock day camps have been held annually in many eastern Idaho counties since 2003. The purpose of the camps is to give youth the opportunity to learn about raising a 4-H animal and the role the youth play in the agriculture industry. Additionally, the camps count toward required 4-H meeting attendance.

Historically youth were being taught how to raise a consumer-acceptable product. With the 4-H national mission mandates being introduced the Extension educators wanted to learn if the youth were gaining knowledge in science, healthy living and citizenship through attending the day camps.

Our Response

In 2015 the Extension educators developed topics with an emphasis on science and citizenship. Youth from 8-18 in seven area counties participated in activities and experiments to learn about quality assurance by identifying proper injection sites and giving vaccinations. The youth learned about animal nutrition by learning the importance of protein in the diet to build muscle and the role animal environment plays in efficient animal growth. The youth participants gained leadership skills by participating in a public speaking workshop. An evaluation tool was developed to determine if participants gained knowledge by attending the livestock day camp.



Meranda Small and Steve Harrison teaching youth proper injection practices.

As youth arrived, they completed a pre-test covering quality assurance, nutrition, environment, public speaking and finance. A post-test followed at the conclusion of the camp activities.

Program Outcomes

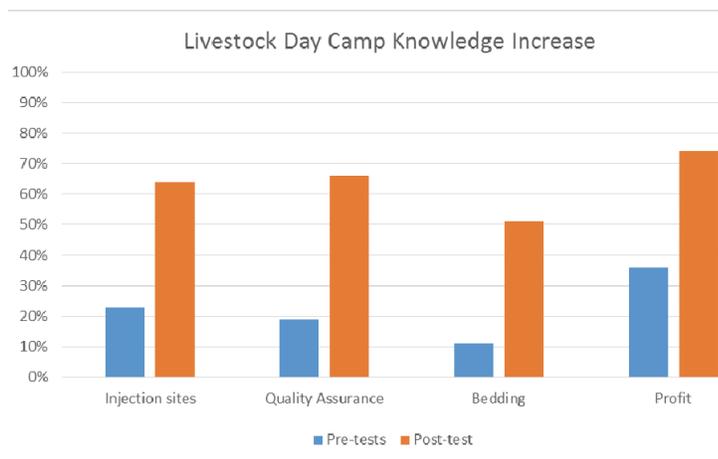
The data indicates the youth had knowledge of public speaking, the importance of providing adequate animal space and the role that protein plays as it relates to animal growth.

Results from the pre-post test evaluation showed that the youth gained the knowledge about 1) quality assurance through proper injections and how that relates to the consumers. 2) The effect quality assurance practices have on the product the youth are raising for consumers. 3) The type of bedding has an impact on the health and management of their livestock. 4) The importance of financial record keeping and how it relates to monitoring profit and loss.

Through focusing on national 4-H program priorities, the youth that attended the livestock day camp are informed stewards of livestock.

The Future

University of Idaho Extension educators will continue to provide education for 4-H youth and volunteers on a continuous basis. The topics will be based on 4-H mission trends and participant needs.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

Scott Nash, Regional Youth Development Educator
University of Idaho Extension
500 Pocatello Ave.
American Falls, ID 83211
Phone: 208.317.4375
E-mail: snash@uidaho.edu

Meranda Small, Extension Educator
University of Idaho Extension, Bingham County
412 W. Pacific St.
Blackfoot, ID 83221
Phone: 208.785.8060
Fax: 208.785.2511
E-mail: msmall@uidaho.edu

Steve Harrison, Extension Educator
University of Idaho Extension, Caribou County
53 E. 1st South
Soda Springs, ID 83276
Phone: 208.547.3205
E-mail: steveh@uidaho.edu

Brandy Kay, Executive Director Idaho Wool Growers
802 W Bannock, Suite 205
Boise, ID 83701
Phone: 208.344.2271
Fax: 208.344.9447
E-mail: iwga@earthlink.net