

IMPACT

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Livestock day camp: Learning about the birds and bees... sort of

AT A GLANCE

Youth raising livestock 4-H projects gain basic understanding of reproduction, a key component of the livestock industry of which they are a part.

The Situation

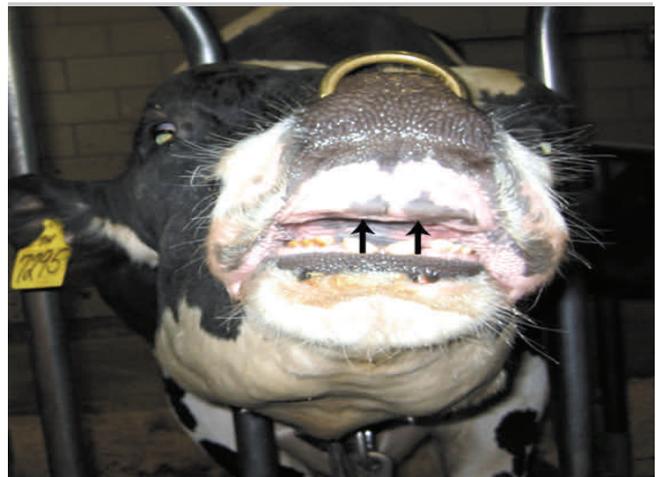
Youth 4-H members in eastern Idaho have the opportunity to participate in Livestock Day Camps during the summer. During these camps youth are able to attend stations to gain livestock education that will help them successfully raise a livestock project. A variety of topics geared toward livestock production are taught to allow youth to understand the role they play in raising livestock. But are attending youth actually gaining knowledge of the livestock industry or some of the aspects of it?

Our Response

Extension Educators provided basic livestock reproduction information to the youth. In order to determine how well the youth understood the information, a pre-post test was given to all attendees. The information was designed around a specific topic with the intent to educate youth as well as evaluate how well they responded to the information.

Program Outcomes

Youth from day camps held in five counties, with ages ranging from 8 to 18 years old were given the pre-post test. To evaluate the workshop effectiveness questions were developed to address specific livestock production information. The intention was that youth would have a starting point of knowledge regarding reproduction and then be able to demonstrate an increase in knowledge following delivery of



Dairy bull displaying Flehmen response, a reproductive behavior discussed in the presentation.

the information. Youth were asked to complete the pre-test, participate in the presentation, then complete the post-test. Tests were then corrected and assigned an overall score which was then used to determine if there was improvement. Youth results were also divided out into Idaho 4-H age groups

The Overall results indicated 74% had an increase in knowledge gained. The results from the junior age group (8-11) indicated that 81% had a knowledge increase. The intermediate group (ages 12-14) showed a 74% improvement in knowledge while the senior group (ages 15-18) had a 57% improvement in knowledge.

Though all participants demonstrated an increase of knowledge and understanding, these results indicate that the junior age group learned the most, clearly improving their understanding of reproduction in the livestock in industry. It is understandable that the senior age group showed the least improvement, this

age group has typically had exposure to the topic by this age. The junior age group also had the largest number of pre-post test respondents.

Conclusion: Information delivered at these day camps provide at least an immediate impact on youths' understanding of different segments of the livestock industry. This understanding now will be of benefit to youth through their 4-H careers as well as in the future as adults in understanding the livestock industry.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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3/16