

IMPACT

University of Idaho
Extension

Bear Lake County

208-847-0345, Fax: 208-847-0345

21620 US HWY 30, Montpelier, Idaho 83254

Eastern Idaho swine camp provides youth with hands-on experience

AT A GLANCE

Youth apply hands-on practices in nutrition, daily care, showmanship and show ring preparation at Eastern Idaho Swine Camps.

The Situation

The youth swine project is the largest meat animal project in the state of Idaho. Many youth joining 4-H and participating in the youth swine program do not have a traditional agricultural background. As the demographic of youth participating in meat animal projects continues to move to youth, without an agricultural background knowledge about meat animals and how to care for them is a necessity.

Our Response

Four eastern district University of Idaho Extension educators obtained a grant from the Idaho Pork Producers to provide youth swine education to east Idaho youth. A three-hour swine camp was developed to meet the educational needs of youth swine producers. The Eastern Idaho Youth Swine Education Day was held in four locations: Grace, Rigby, Blackfoot and American Falls with 189 youth participating. Youth attended four classes, two on nutrition, one on showmanship and the last on show ring preparation.

The nutrition classes taught how to balance a ration and the importance of including high-quality amino acids in a swine ration. The classes included an educational lesson plus an activity where youth participants actually built their own rations and amino acid chains.

Youth were taught how to properly show their hogs and then given an opportunity to practice. Partici-



Steven Harrison teaches youth about swine show ring preparation at the Eastern Idaho Swine Camp in Blackfoot.

pants were also shown how to properly prepare their pigs for the show ring.

Program Outcomes

Youth participants were administered a post test at the end of the swine education day. Results indicate youth had increased knowledge on feeding a balanced ration, checking rations for quality amino acids, practicing proper showmanship techniques and preparing their pig for the show ring.

Ninety-percent of youth indicated they will feed a balanced ration with proper amino acid content. Ninety-five percent also indicated they will practice a minimum of five showmanship sessions at home before attending the fair. Additionally, 85 percent indicated they increased their knowledge on show ring preparation.

The Future

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

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

Idaho Pork Producers

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Steven Harrison, Extension Educator
University of Idaho Extension, Caribou County
53 E First S
Soda Springs, ID 83276
Phone: 208-547-3205
Email: steveh@uidaho.edu

Meranda Small, Extension Educator
University of Idaho Extension, Bingham County
412 West Pacific
Blackfoot, ID 83221
Phone: 208-785-8060
Fax: 208-785-2511
Email: msmall@uidaho.edu

Alaena Wilfong, Extension Educator
University of Idaho Extension, Bonneville County
2925 Rolland St.
Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Phone: 208-529-1390
Email: awilfong@uidaho.edu

Terrell Sorenson, Extension Educator
University of Idaho Extension, Power County
500 Pocatello Ave.
American Falls, ID 83211
Phone: 208-226-7621
Email: tsorensen@uidaho.edu

19-17sharrison-swine-camp.pub
19-17