

Curry County Cooperative Extension Service

Situation

According to Progressive Farmer, animal handling incidents are one of the three most common causes of injuries and fatalities for youth involved in production agriculture.

Two of the basic human needs emphasized by youth development research are independence and mastery. Studies indicate that youth who develop these skills in a positive way are more likely to portray self-confidence and be independent thinkers as contributing members to society.



Photos taken by D. Felger Photography

Extension's Response

4-H livestock projects are grounded in the belief that youth learn best by doing. The 4-H program offers educational trainings through a network of parents, adult volunteers, vocational agriculture teachers, county extension agents, and subject matter experts to educate youth on proper animal handling techniques and safety. A survey administered to youth enrolled in the livestock project determined that a majority of youth are safely handling their animals.

Needs assessment of the data collected identified the necessity of providing goal setting and record keeping trainings for 4-H youth. The extension office will be conducting workshops and/or webinars to help youth master goal setting and record keeping skills for their projects.



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Survey Results

We asked 4-H members about their experience with 4-H projects:

- 99% of youth learned a new skill
- 90% learned safe animal handling practices
- 85% can teach others what they learned
- 84% learned problem solving skills
- 68% learned how to set goals
- 34% learned how to keep accurate records

Participant Feedback

- "Being involved in projects within 4-H and FFA keeps me on track to be the best at what I am doing whether by being a leader or being part of a group."
- "I love 4-H! In 4-H, I get to learn new things and I get to be involved in my community with my family and friends."
- "4-H is a wonderful organization! I really enjoy learning new information about my livestock project from family and friends."

