



extension  
**IMPACTS**

A major portion of the Wyoming 4-H program involves livestock projects and livestock production. The focus is to select, feed, and manage animals to sell to American consumers.

## Extension develops Wyoming Youth Quality Assurance program

### **Situation:**

4-H is the University of Wyoming Cooperative Extension Service's (UW CES) dynamic educational program for youths. A major portion of the Wyoming 4-H program involves livestock projects and livestock production. The focus is to select, feed, and manage animals to sell to American consumers. Projects need to be managed similar to adult livestock producers to ensure a high quality, safe, and wholesome product. The Wyoming Youth Quality Assurance program was developed for extension educators to use in educational programming with livestock project members, leaders, and parents.

Ten 4-H youth educators, Profitable and Sustainable Agricultural Systems (PSAS) initiative team educators, and the extension beef specialist developed Youth Quality Assurance educational materials and program. The program was patterned after the University of Nebraska Youth Quality Assurance Program and adjusted to fit Wyoming 4-H livestock projects. Supplemental educational resources were obtained from the Beef Quality Assurance, Pork Quality Assurance, and Sheep Quality Assurance programs which are used in training producers to be certified in the area of quality assurance.

All UW CES youth educators were trained to use these materials in a variety of methods and situations. Interested PSAS educators also received a copy of the training materials.

The Converse, Niobrara, and Natrona (CNN) Extension Area educator from Niobrara County conducted two sessions at the Youth Quality Assurance train-the-trainer session. Educational programs were conducted in Natrona and Niobrara counties. Approximately 111 members and 52 adults (producers/parents, leaders, and educators) participated in one or more of these educational workshops. Approximately 19 counties have implemented this educational program.

## **Impacts:**

More than 150 individuals in the CNN area received a portion of this training. Evaluations received from these trainings have demonstrated members and leaders are more aware of how their livestock management practices can affect the quality of the product they deliver to consumers. These evaluations show they are more aware of how handling their animals, feeding them properly, and providing clean water at all times is critical to the health of the animal and quality of product.

A number of evaluations have shown members changed some of their animal handling, feeding, and management practices since they have participated in these trainings. Changed practices included better handling, moving and loading of animals, reading feed tags and knowing what their animals are eating, administering shots correctly and in the proper locations, and adhering to withdrawal times when feeding medicated feeds or using various medications.

Members also reported being more aware of carcass quality and their responsibility in delivering a high-quality product to consumers.

A program evaluation was sent to all members from Niobrara and Natrona counties who participated in one of the Youth Quality Assurance programs. These members were asked to rate the trainings on a Likert scale of 1 to 10 (1 being not very helpful to 10 being extremely helpful). The overall rating of these trainings was 9. The highest of the seven trainings presented was 9.75, and the lowest was 7.91. Members were also asked what they learned, what management practices they changed, what activities they enjoyed, and how they would improve these trainings.

Verbal evaluations from senior members, parents, and leaders reflect this training should be required for all Wyoming 4-H livestock project members, both market and breeding. This program has shown a strong impact on member and parent awareness on the importance of proper handling, feeding, and management practices.

---

Tamra Jensen  
University Extension Educator  
CNN Extension Area/Converse, Niobrara,  
and Natrona counties  
(307) 334-3534  
e-mail: trjensen@uwyo.edu