

IMPACT



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4-H'ers Learn How to Protect Livestock Quality

The Situation

Injection site blemishes and pharmaceutical withdrawal times are a major concern for all livestock producers. Meat wholesalers and retailers polled in 1991 by The National Beef Quality Audit team ranked a high incidence of injection-site blemishes as one of its 10 major meat quality concerns. Beef, sheep, swine, and goat producers need to understand the proper equipment and methods of administering pharmaceuticals to provide a safe and wholesome product to consumers. Improper use of equipment and pharmaceuticals could lead to unsafe animal products, loss of value or condemned animal carcasses. In Camas County a quality assurance program was offered to all county sheep 4-H members and their families. Members who participated should feel confident in their management decisions and that they are providing a wholesome meat product to consumers.

Our Response

The extension educator arranged multiple activities that taught members: to identify parts of their lambs and the locations of wholesale and retail cuts of meat, the proper use of animal health products. Members learned about needle sizes and uses, syringe types, and pharmaceutical selection. Members were able to see and hold different types of needles, syringes, and pharmaceuticals. Members also learned the importance of reading labels and proper injection site locations. Other topics taught were meat quality, fat deposits, what makes a quality 4-H project, profit and loss, and market value.

Program Outcomes

Goals of the program were to:

1. Increase knowledge about animal part identification and meat cut locations.
2. Teach members the proper use of animal health products including: selection, preparation, administration, and storage.
3. Teach members about quality wholesome meat products.

4-H members practiced locating information on the different types of sample medicines available. Members read the label of a wormer that was administered to their sheep. Members determined what wormer was given, its purpose, dosage, route of administration and the withdrawal time. They watched for improper administration and learned what clinical health signs to monitor if a mistake occurred. According to a post survey 50 percent of the participants stated they learned what marbling was and how it contributed to meat quality. Future activities will include using apples, oranges or banana to understand the difficulty or simplicity of drawing medicines from a bottle and injecting them.

For More Information

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