

IMPACT

University of Idaho
Extension

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Higher Education at Southern Idaho Livestock Judging Camp

The Situation

Our youth need every opportunity to attend college or some type of higher education. Only about 40% of Idaho's high school graduates go on to college. "That statistic is among the worst in the nation;" according to an article from the Associated Press. Idaho rural families struggle with finding youth motivated to attend college. Livestock judging is part of the 4-H and FFA youth programs that youth can do very well at and get excited about. Many community colleges and universities have college level teams that compete at regional and national contests. Full and partial scholarships can be obtained from these colleges. Livestock judging also builds youth life skills in critical thinking, oral presentations, and personal confidence.

Our Response

Cindy A. Kinder (University of Idaho), Clint Sexton (Oregon State University), and Kolby Burch (Casper Community College), put together a Judging Camp in Jerome, Idaho for youth ages 13-18. The judging camp is a 3-day/2-night camp where youth and adults learn from top livestock judging coaches and their teams to properly evaluate livestock, and increase oral reasons skills.

Camp participants spent 2 days in the classroom and in the barns learning about current trends of breeding, and market quality in beef, sheep, and swine species. Youth learned how to take effective notes during judging classes, were able to work on their oral reason skills, and practice with college students and coaches. Ninety youth and adults from

five different states attended the 1st annual Southern Idaho Livestock Judging Camp, hosted by University of Idaho Extension.



The last day of camp included a judging contest, and 20 teams participated. Two classes of beef, sheep, and swine were evaluated, with one set of oral reasons for each species. Many livestock producers supported the program by providing livestock, including Mavencamp Livestock (Hagerman, Idaho), Thayne Egbert (Jerome, Idaho), Spring Cove Ranch (Bliss, Idaho), David Andreason (Declo, Idaho), Shooting Star Ranch (Gooding, Idaho) and Lazy Heart J (Twin Falls, Idaho).

Program Outcomes

Seventy-eight percent of participants stated that they learned more about college, while 100% surveyed stated they wanted to attend college. Results showed

that 79% of those participating were at a judging camp for their first time, while 11% gave their first set of oral reasons. Results also showed that 18% were in the advanced reasons category.

What participants liked most about camp included:

- Encouragement to meet new people and learn things we don't know.
- Meeting the Casper College Students.
- Learning about different states (Colleges) Ag. Programs.
- Meeting the college instructors and building confidence for college.

For More Information

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