

2010 District 8 4-H Holiday Classic

RELEVANCE

Texas 4-H and FFA members are raising more than 76,000 livestock projects annually, including beef cattle, lamb, swine, and meat goats. This results in almost 15 million pounds of carcass that are harvested each year. With the tremendous amount of product that 4-H and FFA members are contributing to the food supply, along comes the responsibility to produce a safe and wholesome product for consumers. The Quality Counts program provides an opportunity for young Texas producers to learn personal character attributes and acceptable livestock management practices associated with these projects.



RESPONSE

The District 8 4-H Holiday Classic is annual educational event hosted by County Extension Agents in District 8. Families bring their cattle, lambs, swine, and goats to learn more about the responsibilities that are attributed to exhibiting livestock. During the two day program, experts in livestock and youth development provide educational, hands-on training for these families in both group and individual settings. After the group and one-on-one trainings, the youth have the opportunity to exhibit their projects for practice and receive advice on how to care for their projects. The Holiday Classic is unique because it is completely free to the families with all expenses being paid through local sponsorships. The Holiday Classic is open to all youth and specifically marketed to the 21 counties in District 8: Bell, Bosque, Comanche, Coryell, Eastland, Ellis, Erath, Falls, Freestone, Hamilton, Hill, Hood, Johnson, Leon, Limestone, McLennan, Milam, Navarro, Robertson, Somervell and Williamson. The 2010 District 8 Holiday Classic was held at the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, Texas on November 13-14, 2010. The event was attended by approximately 1250 persons.



RESULTS

A retrospective-post evaluation was distributed to all youth in attendance. A specific evaluation was used at each specie training. A total of 376 completed evaluations were returned, including 76 beef, 76 lamb, 88 swine, and 136 goats. Each specie workshop asked individual knowledge-based questions based on the subject matter taught. In addition, all participants were asked the same question relating to intended behavior change, two customer satisfaction questions, three demographic questions, and suggestions for future topics.

Intended Behavior Change

Overall, an average of **85.11% of respondents** indicated they plan to take action and/or make changes based on the information they learned at the Holiday Classic. The table below shows "Yes" responses by specie workshop.

Specie	Total Respondents	"Yes" Responses	
		#	%
Beef	76	66	86.8%
Lamb	76	67	88.2%
Swine	88	74	85.1%
Goat	136	113	83.1%



Knowledge Changes

Participants were asked to rank their knowledge *before* and *after* Holiday Classic based on a four-point scale of 1=Poor, 2=Fair, 3=Good, and 4=Excellent. The text describes the participants' knowledge level before and after, as well as the percentage of participants that increased their knowledge. The tables below show the mean scores before and after, as well as the percent change. Percent change is calculated by (mean after – mean before) / mean before *100. Additionally, youth were asked what topics they would like to see in the future.

Beef

- **52.1% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of proper preparation and safety factors related to hauling show cattle before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **97.2%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **83.1% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.
- **70.4% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of proper stall and tie out preparation for show cattle before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **97.2%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **74.6% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.
- **71.0% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of the proper steps to washing cattle for show preparation before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **95.7%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **63.8% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.
- **63.8% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of livestock show ethics and “Quality Counts” before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **91.3%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **62.3% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.



Statement	Before	After	Change	% Change
Proper trailer preparation and safety factors related to hauling cattle.	2.58	3.73	1.15	44.57%
Proper stall and tie out preparation for show cattle.	2.79	3.80	1.01	36.20%
Proper steps to washing cattle for show preparation.	2.83	3.65	0.82	29.98%
Basic knowledge of livestock show ethics and “Quality Counts.”	2.72	3.54	0.82	30.15%

Suggestions for future beef topics: fitting, clipping, working with hair (7); showmanship and show day prep (3); feeding (2); unloading cattle; confirmation; selection; breeding; demonstration with a steer.

Lambs

- **45.1% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of health problems and physical signs lambs exhibit when they are sick before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **93.0%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **69.0% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.
- **67.1% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of how to properly feed and exercise their lamb for show before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **98.6%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **55.7% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.
- **68.6% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of how to properly show their lamb before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **97.1%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **54.3% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.



Statement	Before	After	Change	% Change
Understanding of health problems and physical signs lambs exhibit when they are sick.	2.38	3.38	1.00	42.02%
Understanding of how to properly feed and exercise their lamb for show.	2.83	3.54	0.71	25.09%
Understanding of how to properly show their lamb.	2.80	3.49	0.69	24.64%

Suggestions for future lamb topics: showmanship, bracing, set up (4); more hands-on (3); additional opportunities such as college and skillathon (2); selection and evaluation (2); shearing; exercise; details about major shows.

Swine

- **25.0% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of reading and understanding product labels before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **78.8%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **71.3% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.
- **29.1% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of current selection criteria and principles before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **89.9%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **82.3% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.
- **53.8% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of pre-show fitting and preparation before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **97.5%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **81.3% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.
- **48.4% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of basic showmanship principles before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **91.3%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **63.8% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.



Statement	Before	After	Change	% Change
Knowledge of reading and understanding product labels.	2.10	3.01	0.91	43.33%
Knowledge of current selection criteria and principles.	2.14	3.28	1.14	53.27%
Knowledge of pre-show fitting and preparation.	2.45	3.60	1.15	46.94%
Knowledge of basic showmanship principles.	2.45	3.40	0.95	38.78%

Suggestions for future swine topics: showmanship (7); clipping (3); feed (2); health and vaccinations (2); selection and structure (2); ear notches.

Goats

- **39.6% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of how to properly show their goat before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **92.5%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **77.6% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.
- **41.0% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of selecting goats for show before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **85.1%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **76.9% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.
- **54.5% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of feeding and exercising techniques before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **95.5%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **62.7% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.
- **49.3% of participants** indicated a “Good” or “Excellent” knowledge of how to properly clip their goat for show before the Holiday Classic; increasing to **91.0%** after the Holiday Classic.
 - **67.2% of participants** perceived that their knowledge level increased.



Statement	Before	After	Change	% Change
How to properly show their goat.	2.33	3.36	1.03	44.21%
Knowledge of selecting goats for show.	2.21	3.22	1.01	45.70%
Understanding of feeding and exercise techniques.	2.57	3.47	0.90	35.03%
How to properly clip my goat for show.	2.42	3.40	0.98	40.50%

Suggestions for future goat topics: showmanship, washing, equipment (6); clipping (3); dehorning (2); hoof trimming/feet work (2); feeds and supplements (2); exercise (2); health and sickness; drenching; giving injections.

Customer Satisfaction & Demographics

Statement	Percentage of "Yes" Responses				
	Beef	Lamb	Swine	Goats	Total Percentage
Satisfaction with overall program	97.3%	97.4%	100.0%	97.8%	97.87%
Satisfaction with accuracy of information provided	98.7%	96.1%	97.7%	94.0%	95.74%
Only livestock project training to attend this year	26.7%	21.1%	44.3%	31.6%	31.38%



Years attended the Holiday Classic	Number of responses				Total	
	Beef	Lamb	Swine	Goats	#	%
1 year	34	42	51	86	213	57.10%
2 years	14	15	26	29	84	22.52%
3 years	7	10	5	12	34	9.12%
4 years	10	5	0	8	23	6.17%
5 years or more	11	2	5	1	19	5.09%

School Grade of participants	Number of responses				Total	
	Beef	Lamb	Swine	Goats	#	%
Elementary (Grades 3-5)	16	25	27	52	120	33.33%
Middle School (Grades 6-8)	19	25	35	50	129	35.83%
High School (Grade 9-12)	37	24	23	27	111	30.83%

Significant Results

There are a few important items that instructors should keep in mind when planning for the future:

- Overall, 85% of respondents indicated they plan to make a change or take action based on the knowledge they learned at the Holiday Classic.
- Overall, almost one-third of participants are attending the Holiday Classic as their only livestock project training.
- Over half of the participants are first-time attendees. Additionally, when first-time attendees are combined with second-time attendees, it totals almost 80% of participants.
- Showmanship continues to be the most requested topic for future discussion.

Future Plans



Results indicate that youth are in fact adopting practices and gaining the knowledge that instructors have set out to teach. With the high levels of learning and satisfaction, the District 8 County Extension Agents and leaders will continue to conduct the Holiday Classic utilizing the Quality Counts curriculum with the goal to continue to increase the knowledge level and behavior changes of participants, while maintaining customer satisfaction. Results of this event and future events will be utilized to improve and modify the District 8 Holiday Classic.

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