Livestock Exhibitor Quality Assurance Curriculum

A Senior Project

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Abstract

The purpose of this project was to create an up-to-date curriculum for livestock quality assurance for county fairs throughout the United States to utilize if they desire to do so. The project included creating a PowerPoint presentation, a take home handout that summarizes the PowerPoint, an assessment based on the PowerPoint, and a website to make the material accessible to the public free of charge. A vital part of the project was to present the materials via a workshop at the Western Fairs Association conference. The curriculum created was designed for first-time showman or younger exhibitors with the hope to show the ins and outs of showing at a fair without exposing them to the illegal activities that can be associated with livestock shows.
Acknowledgements

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Chapter One

Introduction

The state of California has 77 county fairs that are open for children from the ages of nine through twenty to exhibit, show, and sale a variety of different species of livestock. This variety can be anything from market steers, market lambs, market hogs, broiler chicken pens, meat turkeys, market goats, market eggs, market rabbits, dairy cattle, dairy goats and/or pygmy goats. California’s largest fair is the California State Fair and Exhibition which has over 1,500 youth compete every year. In order to participate in the California State Fair, exhibitors must be Quality Assurance and Ethics Awareness Training program certified. This program teaches exhibitors about the importance of providing quality animal products as well as what is ethical and unethical treatment of livestock show animals. With the growing incidents of unethical treatment of fair animals, county fairs have been moving towards the need for more awareness of these issues as well as basic information for exhibitors and advisors to reference. The authors of this project conducted a workshop at the Western Fairs Association convention (WFA) that provided county fair representatives and staff with information and a curriculum that is tailored for young or first time exhibitors to learn the basics of showing, ethics, caring for their animals, feeding, etc. All the information that the authors of this project produce will be available to anyone who wants to access it through the Livestock Quality Assurance website created by the authors of this project. This workshop benefited any county fair, exhibitor, and/or advisor that wanted basic beginner quality assurance information for showing livestock at fairs.
Statement of the Problem

County fairs throughout the state of California wish to provide showmen with valuable information about showing and ethics without exposing younger exhibitors to the possible illegal drugs and procedures that are associated with unethical treatment. The current problem is that county fairs do not have the proper, up-to-date information or curriculum to provide for these exhibitors.

The Importance of the Project

Due to the high demand for a curriculum that covers basic showing etiquette, ethics, quality assurance, feeding, choosing an animal, and other valuable information for first-time showers, it is important to provide county fairs access to this type of information. By providing this information to county fair personnel, exhibitors, and advisors beginner showman have more information and knowledge about what goes into showing livestock, are more prepared for when the fair comes around, and raise higher quality animals.

Purpose of the Project

The purpose of this project was to provide a workshop, curriculum, and resources about quality assurance and the basics of showing animals for California county fair representatives at the Western Fairs Association convention in order to provide them with information to pass onto their exhibitors and advisors. Now county fairs can provide quality and educational resources for exhibitors and advisors to utilize when preparing for showing.
Objectives of the Project

1. To research the current livestock show industry
   a. Research size/scale
   b. Research the background of the California State Fair’s Quality Assurance and Ethics Awareness Program
   c. Research California’s County Fair scope
2. To address the public concern for livestock welfare in the show industry
3. To address current issues with livestock ethics in the fair industry
   a. Research current issues at the California State Fair
4. To create curriculum that relates to livestock ethics, animal welfare, and showing basics such as feeding, choosing an animal, showing, health, etc.
5. To create handouts and quizzes based on the curriculum as a reference.
6. To put on a workshop at the Western Fairs Association convention

Definition of Important Terms

- 4-H: In the United States is a youth organization administered by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), with the mission of "engaging youth to reach their fullest potential while advancing the field of youth development. The name represents four personal development areas of focus for the organization: head, heart, hands, and health.
- Animal Welfare: the physical and psychological well-being of animals. It is measured by indicators including behavior, physiology, longevity, and reproduction
- Country fair: a fair usually held annually at a set location in a county especially to exhibit local agricultural products and livestock
- Ethics: the rules of conduct recognized in respect to a particular class of human actions or a particular group, culture, etc.:
• Exhibit: to place on show
• FFA: The National FFA Organization is an American youth organization known as a Career and Technical Student Organization, based on middle and high school classes that promote and support agricultural education
• Jackpot: a livestock show in which entry fees are charged and cash prizes or premiums are awarded from the accumulated entry fees or other matching funds.
• Livestock: the horses, cattle, sheep, and other useful animals kept or raised on a farm or ranch.
• Quality Assurance: the maintenance of a desired level of quality in a service or product
• Withdraw: As relating to veterinary medicine, is defined as the time required after administration of a drug to an animal needed to assure that drug residues in the marketable product is below a determined maximum residue limit

Summary
This project has allowed county fairs throughout California to provide a curriculum about the basics of showing for first time or young 4-H exhibitors. Furthermore, this workshop gave country fair representative materials related to individual species and supplemental resources that complement the curriculum provided that can all be accessed online through http://qafairs.weebly.com/. This material will be both beneficial to instructors, advisors, fair staff, and exhibitors throughout California
Chapter Two
Literature Review

Livestock shows and fairs around the state have expressed the need for a very basic curriculum for young or first time exhibitors. This curriculum needs to include what quality assurance is, basic livestock ethics, public perception, how to choose an animal, health, feeding, etc. Along with the curriculum, supplemental handouts and quizzes will be provided for county fairs, exhibitors, and advisors to access. The purpose of this project is to present this information and curriculum at the Western Fairs Association convention in order to inform county fair representatives that this new information is now available to them. This curriculum and supplemental information will help first time exhibitors and young exhibitors understand what the showing experience entails as well as other basic information related to livestock. This chapter reviews, defines, and explains important terms for the project.

Livestock Shows

Livestock shows are events in which young men and women ages nine through twenty showcase and sell their livestock projects. These shows range from small country fairs to large state fairs to even jackpot and national shows. The exhibitors can show a variety of animals which include, but are not limited to: chickens, turkeys, rabbits, goats, sheep, hogs, steers, and dairy heifers and cows. Through the process that the young exhibitors have to go through in order to show and eventually sell their animals for profit, the exhibitors gain a variety of positive experiences that help them through their lives.
The benefits that livestock shows provide vary from exhibitor to exhibitor. Research has shown that the general benefits fit into certain categories: social relations, character, family, competition, new cultures, and finance for education (Davis, Kieth, Williams & Fraze, 2000). In each of these areas, exhibitors have shown how livestock shows have positively influences their lives. Other benefits of these projects are that exhibitors gain an appreciation and knowledge of the animals that they care for and work with (Davis, 1998). This attribute of showing livestock is of upmost importance because young adults get insight into livestock industries that produce food for our country. The animals that are marketed through livestock shows make up .6% of the meat-producing animals in the United States (Goodwin, 2001). Although this is only a small percentage, it still shows that the animals that are raised for livestock shows still end up in the food chain making it important that the exhibitors raising those animals learn how to do so properly. Other benefits that just may be the more important are that exhibitors gain pride in their accomplishments, confidence through learning by doing, and knowledge that can be applied in the future (Davis, 1998).

The learn-by-doing aspect of livestock shows is what makes them so beneficial to those showing. The hands-on experience extends beyond the show ring and into the months of preparation prior to the show. The exhibitors must select and raise the animal for a minimum amount of time, feed it twice daily, care for it, and learn to show and fit properly, all before entering the show ring. Most exhibitors that participate in these shows are a part of a 4-H club or an FFA chapter that have advisors to help and teach them the proper way to care and work with their projects. Parents encourage their children to participate in 4-H and FFA because the reputation that each organization hold for teaching things such as leadership, regimentation, responsibility, and self-confidence (Murphy, Norwood & Dubes, 1992). These organizations, 4-
H and FFA, help their members gain more hard and soft skills that will benefit them now and in their futures. The final and one of the most important benefits of livestock shows is that the child showing does not have to be the fastest, strongest, or most talented, any child can show an animal (Davis, Kieth, Williams & Fraze, 2000). Any child despite special needs, disability, family, background, or story can reap the benefits that the experience of raising an animal and showing it at a livestock show has to offer.

**Animal Ethics**

The concern for animal ethics and welfare began when the public noticed that some animals were not being treated as well as they should have been. Scientists who started studying the welfare of animals in the 1970’s realized that their field began not because of purely scientific interest in the quality of life of animals, but because of public concern about how animals are raised and treated, as articulated by ethicists and social critics (Fraser, 1999). With the growing concern the public displays for the ethical treatment of animals, the general welfare of the animals have to be evaluated and researched.

A generally accepted definition of animal welfare is that it “comprises the state of the animal’s body and mind, and the extent to which its nature (genetic traits manifest in breed and temperament) is satisfied” (Hewson, 2003). Animal welfare can been evaluated and assessed through different aspects and terms of the animals’ lives. One is the animals’ body condition and environment. If the animal is producing and is healthy then it must be faring well. This point of view is flawed because an animal can be healthy, but can be mentally anxious about the environment it is living in. The other is in terms of not only the animals’ body but also its feelings. If the animal feels well it is faring well. The last term is that animals fare best if they are
living according to their nature and natural behavior. (Hewson, 2003). The determination of how to evaluate whether or not the welfare of animals is ethical or unethical can be based on the purpose of which the animal/s serve the person or group who is showing the concern.

In the livestock industry the concern for the ethical treatment of animals has to be balanced with production and efficiency. The livestock industry may have different ethical views toward the treatment of animals than those who have companion animals. The differences in ethical views makes deciding the premises on what is ethical or unethical when it comes to animals very difficult. This raises the need for universality of animal ethics, an ethical relativism and the promotion of a dialogue between cultures (Marie, 2006). The livestock industry will continue to struggle with deciding what is and what is not ethical treatment of animals, but this struggle is to satisfy the wants of the consumer, which is what the industry is founded upon.

**Ethical Issues with Livestock Shows**

Livestock ethical issues in shows date back to 1990’s. This is when the first cases of unethical behavior were first observed. Livestock shows during this time started to become more popular, competitive, and have larger cash prizes. The first unethical treatments that were first seen were physical manipulation of animals, false ownership of animals, and the hiring of professional fitters to manage and groom the animals of youth exhibitors (Goodwin, 2001). Today the list of commonly seen unethical behavior has grown to also include: physical alternations of the animals, misrepresentation of the animals’ age, and interference with the judge of the show (Goodwin, 1994). While all of these violations are important, others seem to be more detrimental and prevalent than others.
Illegal drug use in the show ring was brought to attention when residues of the illegal muscle-building drug, clenbuterol were discovered at major livestock shows in 1994 (Goodwin, Briers & Murphy, 1999). The use of drugs and chemicals whether legal or illegal has become one of the major issues within the livestock show industry. The concern with the use of drugs and chemicals is the withdrawal time that is required for the drug to leave the animals system. This withdrawal time is important to note because animals cannot be slaughtered if the withdrawal period has not been met. Any over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, de-wormers, etc. have withdrawal periods that are specific to the treatment and clearly labeled. The drugs and chemicals that are illegal to while showing range from tranquilizers not labeled for animal use, diuretics to help animals lose weight rapidly, anti-inflammatory to help hurt animal walk, and antibiotic steroids to help animals gain muscle (Goodwin, 1994).

In a study done in 1990 at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, one of the nation’s largest livestock shows, approximately 25% of those surveyed had used illegal drugs to prepare for the show, 47% had falsely registered their animals, and 37.5% were aware of other falsifications that had occurred (Murphy, Norwood & Dubes, 1992). This study shows that there is a serious issue of ethical treatment of livestock show animals. In more recent years there has been a push to educate these exhibitors about the ethical treatment of their animal in order for them to learn right from wrong. There are three questions that are important for participants to ask themselves before they show and market their animals: 1) Do any of my practices violate Food and Drugs Administration laws? 2) Do the practices compromise the well-being of my animal? 3) Are my practices misrepresentation of my animal? (Goodwin, 2001). These questions will assist exhibitors in making the right decision when it comes to their project. The purpose of
addressing the ethics of livestock shows today is to help young people learn to make good ethical decisions—both in the show barn and in the real world (Goodwin, 2001).

**Public Perception of Livestock Shows**

In recent years there has been much talk about the security and safety of our food supply in the United States. Concerns about food-borne illnesses or animal diseases occurring have also been seen in recent years. Some members of the public believe that livestock shows facilitate suitable conditions for such epidemics to occur (Thunes & Carpenter, 2007). With the amount of animals coming and going at fairs each yeah there is a great alarm with bio-security and any food-borne or animal diseases that may be associated with the amount of animals. It is important for livestock shows to be aware and face the concerns the public has with these issues. These shows and fairs have to opportunity to be able to address these issues and have a one-on-one contact with the public.

Livestock shows facilitate an opportunity for the public to interact with a portion of the livestock industry in person. It allows the public to interact and become not only with the animals but also those individuals who are invested in the animals as well as become educated about the livestock industry. Livestock show are not only beneficial to those who participate in them, they also benefit the public. Fairs and livestock shows are the perfect opportunity to help close the gap between agriculture and the general public.

**California State Fair Livestock Show**

Each year, over 1500 youth, ages 9-20, gather for the California State Fair in Sacramento, California held at Cal Expo. The State Fair is the largest exhibition of livestock in the state of
California and one of the, if not the most, competitive shows that the students and their families will participate in all year. The types of animals that are showcased at the fair include: goats, sheep, cattle, horses, hogs, turkeys, chickens, rabbits, cavies, water fowl, llamas, alpacas and dogs (Livestock). Spanning three weeks and hosting four different rotations of species, its sheer size and attraction makes it the most highly attended of all animal shows in California. Youth are eligible to show through a variety of organizations, FFA, 4-H and Grange are the largest examples. They are also eligible to show as independents, therefore they are not required to dress in uniform or attend any formal organizational meetings. Entry forms can either be mailed in or accessed online at http://www.bigfun.org. This website holds all necessary links and resources including the “State Fair Handbook”. This handbook lists all the information needed when exhibiting at the fair; it also includes rules, requirements and expectations for exhibitors to follow.

An example of some of the bullets include:

- Entry Responsibilities and Limits
- Disqualifications
- Judging
- Ownership and Registration
- Code of Ethics
- Quality Assurance and Ethics Training Program


The “Code of Ethics” outlines what state fair acknowledges as the appropriate manner to conduct ones-self during a show. In order to go in depth with exhibitors about what is expected of them, the California State Fair requires that each person submitting entries for a youth, livestock
category attend a “Quality Assurance and Ethnic Awareness Workshop” to become “Quality Assurance and Ethnic Awareness Certified”.

**Quality Assurance and Ethnic Awareness Program**

The Quality Assurance and Ethnic Awareness program is utilized by the California State Fair as a workshop to certify its exhibitors. It is a way of insuring that the students participating in the livestock show have been fully educated on what is allowed and what is not allowed in the barns during the week of the show (Junior Livestock). During each workshop, the instructor will give information regarding illegal use of drugs, parent participation, ownership expectations, ethical treatment of animals and other controversial subjects pertaining to the fair industry as a whole. These training sessions occur all over the state of California and can only be put on by an instructor that has been certified through the State Fair. In order to find out dates and other information exhibitors are referred to this website: [http://www.bigfun.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/2012-QA-Dates-September-14.pdf](http://www.bigfun.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/2012-QA-Dates-September-14.pdf). Each instructor is responsible for the content of his/ her workshop. There are resources available through the State Fair but for the most part research is required for the instructor. His/her materials can vary greatly but the basic concepts that they are required to cover do not change. Most people that chose to become certified in this coursework are related to the agriculture education field. A large majority of instructors are high school agriculture teachers. This is due to the fact that it is their FFA students whom benefit.
Western Fairs Association

The Western Fairs Association, also known as WFA, is a non-profit trade association that represents the fair industries in the Western United States and Canada. The association was founded in 1922 and then incorporated in 1945 ("WFA: About WFA," 2014). The focus of the association is to provide education opportunities, training, and advocacy for the fair industry. It’s mission statement is: “to build better fairs by providing professional leadership, communication and education.” ("WFA: About WFA," 2014) WFA serves more than 800 members. These members range from fair-related businesses, fair board of directors, fair management, festivals, and industry associations ("WFA: About WFA," 2014). There are five different, official categories of membership for the association: fairs, service members, festivals and special events, affiliate members, and agriculture resources ("WFA: About WFA," 2014). Each of these groups receives the same benefits that the association provides. Twenty three members are elected by the 800 members to serve as the governing board for the association. These elected individuals govern the activities and policies of the associations as a whole. ("WFA: About WFA," 2014) The association hosts an annual conference to gather the members and provide them with education programs, a trade show, and to conduct important business.

Summary

The purpose of this project was to provide California county fair representatives, exhibitors, and advisors with the proper curriculum and resources for beginner exhibitors to learn about the basics of showing livestock, quality assurance, public perception, and showing ethics. The development of this curriculum helped fill the void that is present for educating first time exhibitors on what to expect when showing livestock. Young 4-H members and beginners now
have the knowledge of how to choose a show animal, how to feed and care for it, health issue, how to raise a quality animal for consumption, and basic ethics without being fully exposed to the drugs and techniques associated with unethical treatment. This project benefitted county fair representatives and advisors who needed information to give to first time exhibitors.
Chapter Three
Materials and Methods

In order to create an effective quality assurance curriculum for county fairs, the first step was to consult with a licensed Quality Assurance and Ethics training instructor to gain more insight and knowledge about quality assurance and livestock ethics. This individual served as the advisor of the project and reviewed all the materials created to make sure they were correct. Secondly, a PowerPoint was created to serve as the main resource for the curriculum. This PowerPoint covered basic information about fairs, quality assurance, public perception, raising an animal, and showing an animal. Next, a “Need to Know” Handout was created that summarized the Quality Assurance PowerPoint. This handout can serve as a reference sheet for students of the curriculum. The next step was to create a quiz based off of the information presented in the PowerPoint. This quiz will serve as an assessment for the curriculum. The authors of this project then created a website to make all of their created resources available to the public. This website contains the Livestock Exhibitor Quality Assurance PowerPoint, the “Need to Know” Handout, the quiz, the quiz key, official rules, and an e-mail address for questions. The final step to make the project a success was for the authors to present their materials and resources at a workshop at the Western Fairs Association conference. Each of these steps was necessary to make the project a success.

Consult with a Licensed Quality Assurance and Ethics Training Instructor

The authors of the project are not licensed Quality Assurance and Ethics training instructors, so having an advisor that is licensed was an extremely important aspect of this
project. The authors had the privilege of working with and being advised by Mr. Bob Cumming, a California State Fair Quality Assurance and Ethics training instructor. The authors met with Mr. Cummings on a regular basis to discuss and review what material should be covered by the curriculum. All the resources created were reviewed by Mr. Cummings for accuracy and content. The authors of the project looked to Mr. Cummings for his guidance, advice, and approval throughout the duration of the project.

**Livestock Exhibitor Quality Assurance PowerPoint**

This PowerPoint provides very basic information about exhibiting livestock at a county fair. It covers the history of fairs, why quality assurance is important, animal safety, animal handling, buying a show animal, feeding, animal exercise and training, what not to use with livestock animals, how to monitor animal health and progress, and how to prepare an animal for show. The purpose of this PowerPoint is to give first time showman or even advisor enough background that he/she could raise a show animal successfully on their own. This PowerPoint will be introduced at the Western Fairs Association convention and International Fairs and Exhibitions convention to inform fair personnel that this information is now available for their personal use and the use of their exhibitors.

**“Need to Know” Handout**

This handout is the supplement to the Livestock Exhibitor Quality Assurance PowerPoint. The “Need to Know About the Show” handout goes into more detail about the information provided on the PowerPoint. The purpose of this handout is the give exhibitors a hard copy to the PowerPoint that is in a handout form. Exhibitors who participate in the
curriculum provided will have a take-home hand-out that summarizes the program they participated in.

**Quiz**

A quiz is available that focuses on quality assurance and ethical treatment of show livestock. This quiz can be accessed by advisors and/or fair representatives who want to provide a quality assurance and ethics awareness program much like the one provided by California State Fair, but targeted more for younger or first time exhibitors. The authors of this project do not want to expose these exhibitors to actual name of drugs or real techniques used with the hope that if they are not directly exposed to it, then they would not become involved with such activity. These quizzes will be very broad based and be directed toward a younger, less experienced audience.

**Website**

The authors of the project created a website for those wanting to utilize the resources to access. The website allows the public to download any of the materials created free of cost. The authors used a website generator sources called “Weebly” to create a free website. This site can be customized by the account holders and materials can be updated as needed. On the site, others can find all the materials created by the authors: the Livestock Exhibitor Quality Assurance PowerPoint, the “Need to Know” handout, the quiz and key, and rules and regulations for the California state level and national level. Through this site, viewers can email the authors directly if they have any comments or questions. The URL for the website is: <qafairs.weebly.com>
Western Fairs Association Workshop

The Western Fair Association is a non-profit trade association that works directly with the fair industry throughout the Western United States and Canada. The association helps these fairs by having educational activities, training programs, and legislative advocacy. Western Fairs Association (WFA) has an annual conference to discuss business and have educational opportunities for fair staff and leaders. At the 2013 annual conference which was held January 5th-8th, 2014 in Anaheim, California, the authors of this project presented a workshop based on the materials created. In attendance there were approximately 30-40 fair staff members, fair leaders, and fair board members. The materials were very well received by the audience and the topic sparked a great deal of discussion and questions.

Summary

With the above resources being available to all county fairs and the exhibitors, a successful curriculum for basic Livestock Exhibitor Quality Assurance can be utilized by county fairs throughout the state of California. By providing these resources: PowerPoint, handouts, and quizzes; county fairs, advisors, and exhibitors can help beginning exhibitor learn about the basics of showing and quality assurance so that any exhibitor showing at a county fair will know what to expect before, during, and after the show.
Chapter Four

Results and Discussion

In the following pages, one will find all the material created for this project. This includes the Livestock Exhibitor Quality Assurance PowerPoint. The “Need to Know” handout, the quiz and quiz key, and screenshots of the website created. The curriculum targets first time or young exhibitors. All of the materials created were presented during a workshop at the Western Fairs Association conference in Anaheim, California. The presentation was well received by the audience that attended the workshop. Some recommendations were suggested and the authors of the project have continued to work to satisfy these recommendations. All the materials and resources created are available, free of charge, for county fairs throughout the Western United States to use at their fairs if they see the need to do so.

Quality Assurance PowerPoint Presentations:

Below are actual copies of the PowerPoint presentations
**What NOT to feed**

- **Human Food**
  - Too little or Much!

**Water**

- It is VERY important that all animals have access to a constant supply of clean, fresh water!

**Exercise and Training**

- **Exercise Benefits**
  - Muscle Toning
  - Burns Fat
  - Health Benefits
  - More one on one interaction
  - Human Exposure

**Monitoring Feed**

- Monitor the bowl and how much food is being left in the feeder at all times.
- If an animal is eating the food through and at the sudden stops leaving food, something may be wrong.

**Monitoring Health**

- Monitor the hair, eyes, and ears of your animal for access, mass or dropsiness.
- Lack of appetite is one of the first signs of illness.
- Four main disease symptoms you may encounter are: 1) respiratory, 2) diarrhea, 3) changes in body condition, 4) fever.
- If any of these signs are present, seek veterinary help immediately.

**Fair Time is Fun Time**

**Preparing**

- As exhibitors, it is your duty to prep your own animals for show.
  - Practice is essential for proper grooming, weighing, and feeding.

**Preparing Cont.**

- Preparing is crucial for the showing and winning ribbons.
  - Exhibitors must help other exhibitors learn competitive show skills and helping to the show.
Presentation Handouts:

Below are actual copies of the handouts

**Need to Know**

*Key points to take away from the Q & A Powerpoint*

**Background of Fairs**
- Fairs have been around for more than 300 Years
- Watson is known as the founder of Fairs
- Fairs started as a means of exposing new technology

**Why is Quality Assurance Important?**
- Public and Exhibitor Safety
- Public Image
- Exhibitor Faisnness
- Animal Safety and Proper Management
Safety

- Public and Exhibitor safety is of the most importance
- Animal safety and welfare need to monitored and managed at all times
- Ask permission to approach any livestock, move slowly around them, as they can be scared easily and can be dangerous
- Always ask for help!

- Take precautionary steps to reduce possible injuries like stepped on toes, rope burns, and being kicked by cattle
- *WASH HANDS AFTER TOUCHING ANY ANIMAL...ALWAYS!*
- Fairs are an educational opportunity to teach the uninformed public about the livestock industry and where their food comes from

Raising & Feeding

- When purchasing an animal, their health is the first priority: Is the animal vaccinated/ wormed?
- Is the animal the correct age, and does it come from a reputable breeder?
- Nutrition and feeding are essential to raising a healthy animal that will produce a quality product at the end of the project
- Each species should be fed a correct diet according to their digestive systems and weight
- Clean water should be accessible at all times
- Regular exercise and human interaction is key so that animals are calm and acclimated when arriving at fair
- Animals should be weighed at least every two weeks to monitor feed intake and conversion ratios
- If feed is left in the feeder the animals could be sick or have another problem, monitoring the eyes and nose for mucus, and the droopiness of the ears can be telltale signs of a sick animal
**Fair Time is Fun Time**

- Prepping animals is an exciting learning experience
- Workshops and clinics put on by fitting experts are available across the state
- Rules and regulations are available for each livestock show. Make sure you refer to your fair’s rules before entering the ring.

**And Most Importantly...**

![](image)

For any additional questions refer to qfafaqs.woobly.com
Quality Assurance Quiz:

Below are actual copies of the quiz and quiz key

T/F. John Smith is known as the founder of fairs
T/F. There are currently 78 fairs in California

Why is Quality Assurance important?
A) Public and Exhibitor Safety C) Exhibitor Fairness
B) Public Image D) Animal Safety and Proper Management
E) All of the Above

Some of the following are good precautionary measures when dealing with Exhibitor Safety:
A) Make loud noises and run C) Wear army pants and flip flops
B) Take time to approach other exhibitors’ animals D) Use Caution at all times

The most important factor when it comes to Biosecurity is:
A) Kissing your animals in the face C) Washing your hands
B) Eating tacos while petting your livestock D) Wear gloves

T/F. Fairs offer an opportunity for exhibitors and the public alike to learn about our livestock and food industries

When feeding your livestock project animal you should feed it:
A) Table scraps C) Lawn and yard clippings
B) Approved and reputable feed rations D) Taco Bell

The health and wellness of your animal can be monitored by watching what?
A) Ears C) Eyes
B) Nose D) All of the above

T/F. Ag teachers, 4H leaders, and parents are not allowed to assist with fitting in any way.

What is the most important part of exhibiting an animal at the fair?
A) Winning C) Making the most money
Knowledge Check Key

T/F. John Smith is known as the founder of fairs (F)
T/F. There are currently 78 fairs in California (T)

Why is Quality Assurance important? (E)
A) Public and Exhibitor Safety     C) Exhibitor Fairness
B) Public Image                                 D) Animal Safety and Proper Management
E) All of the Above

Some of the following are good precautionary measures when dealing with Exhibitor Safety: (D)
A) Make loud noises and run           C) Wear army pants and flip flops
B) Take time to approach other exhibitors’ animals    D) Use Caution at all times

The most important factor when it comes to Biosecurity is: (C)
A) Kissing your animals in the face              C) Washing your hands
B) Eating tacos while petting your livestock  D) Wear gloves

T/F. Fairs offer an opportunity for exhibitors and the public alike to learn about our livestock and food industries (T)

When feeding your livestock project animal you should feed it: (B)
A) Table scraps C) Lawn and yard clippings
B) Approved and reputable feed rations D) Taco Bell

The health and wellness of your animal can be monitored by watching what? (D)
A) Ears C) Eyes
B) Nose D) All of the above

T/F. Ag teachers, 4H leaders, and parents are not allowed to assist with fitting in any way. (Trick question- check your local fair rules)

What is the most important part of exhibiting an animal at the fair? (D)
A) Winning C) Making the most money
B) Eating fair food D) Having fun
Quality Assurance Website:

Below are screen shots of our website. The authors needed a central location for the material that was easily accessible for the public. The URL for the website is:

< http://qafairs.weebly.com/>
Discussion:

The workshop was a tool used to present all the material listed above. In attendance there were approximately 30-40 industry persons from fairs around the Western United States. They reacted positively to what we had presented and offered recommendations for the future. These recommendations included offering a presentation and handouts for a more experienced showman, utilizing certified Quality Assurance presenters to update their workshops with our new material and marketing our presentation at local county fairs as a required entity to exhibit livestock. All recommendations were taken into consideration and necessary materials will be added to the website on a needed basis.
Chapter Five

Summary, Recommendations, and Conclusions

The newly created Livestock Exhibitor Quality Assurance curriculum will become a stable for county fairs throughout California and others states as they move towards requiring exhibitors to go through a quality assurance program prior to showing livestock at their fair. The most important part of this project was that it be free of cost to fairs and be easily accessible. Creating the website has assured that this goal is met. The curriculum will continue to be updated and the website will be regularly checked for questions or concerns. By presenting the material at the Western Fairs Association conference, the authors received great recommendations on how to better the material even further. The authors have taken these recommendations into consideration and have already begun working on them. This includes a second PowerPoint that is similar in content as the first, but is tailored for an older, more advanced audience.

Recommendations

The following recommendations should be considered if one is considering doing a similar project:

1. Base the content of the curriculum on standards
   
   • Researching any agriculture education standards that encompassed the content would have added more credibility and use to the project. Agriculture educators then could have used to curriculum in their classroom as a lesson or as part of a unit.

2. Create materials for advance showman instead of just beginner materials
• Having materials created for the advance showman from the beginning of the project would have been helpful. Such materials were created after the presentation, but having the resources to present at WFA would have given us more material to cover.

3. Become Quality Assurance and Ethics Training Instructors prior to creating the resources

• As the authors and creators of the materials and resources, it would have helped our credibility if we had all gone through the training to become a Quality Assurance and Ethics Training Instructor rather than relying on an instructor for majority of our resources.

Conclusions

The creation of a curriculum based on livestock quality assurance for county fairs was a great success because it met the objectives established in Chapter One of the project. The materials created conveyed the information necessary to have a successful quality assurance program at the county fair level. All of the material is up-to-date and is presented in a fun, but educational manner. The curriculum created will help county fairs that hope to start a quality assurance program for their exhibitors. The authors of the project have been asked to present their newly created material at a county fair and have been informed that another county fair will be implementing the curriculum in the near future. The only negative aspect of the project was that the material was not based on any standards. This would have helped to make the materials more credible. Overall, however; the project was a great success and the authors are proud of what was accomplished.
Reference List


http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articlesPMC340178/


