Check out what’s going on in 4-H!

These events will allow youth to network and develop friendships with people from across the state, as well as grow their own skillsets to better themselves and those around them. From personal development to engineering and forestry, there is something to interest everyone! Links for more information are embedded in each flyer below.

4-H Senior Teen Weekend
March 3-5, 2017
At Camp Bob Cooper, near Summerton, SC 29148
Cost is $100

Some of the activities will include--
• Dance
• Tie dying
• Ozobots
• and more

• Register and pay on the 4-H Website under the Green Event Registration Box by February 15, to avoid the $15 late fee.
• Contact your local Extension Office for more information.

4-H Forestry Clinic
March 10-12, 2017 at Webb Wildlife Center
Open to youth age 14-18
Cost: $100

Thank you to our 2016 sponsors

South Carolina 4-H Forestry Clinic
March 10-12, 2017 at Webb Wildlife Center
Open to youth age 14-18
Cost: $100

Some of the activities will include--
• Dance
• Tie dying
• Ozobots
• and more

• Register and pay on the 4-H Website under the Green Event Registration Box by February 15, to avoid the $15 late fee.
• Contact your local Extension Office for more information.

4-H Fundraiser
Sporting Clays Tournament
March 18, 2017
NWTF Palmetto Shooting Complex
Edgefield, SC
Monthly 4-H Club Activity Idea

Why Judge Livestock?!

Objective: To be able to identify the differences in conformation of livestock, to understand why it is important to select smartly, and to communicate the selection process.

Age Range: All ages.

Hands-on Activity: Judge four varieties of candy and communicate differences and similarities to the “ideal” candy bar.

Life Skills: HEAD = critical thinking, decision making; HEART = social skills, communication; HANDS = marketable skills;

Introduction

If you are in the livestock industry, there are many factors to consider when selecting new animals to add to your farm. Whether you be interested in how many pounds of product an animal will yield or how many ribbons that animal will win in the show ring, there is still a common factor to consider; conformation. Conformation is the term used to describe the way an animal is put together. Studying an animal’s bone structure, fleshing ability, and muscle composition in detail can give you a good indication of how productive and long-lived that animal will be. We value animals that put together all the best confirmation and locomotive (i.e., movement, walking) traits in the nicest package; the animal that absolute best of every trait is considered “ideal”. Once you know what the ideal animal is and how it is depicted, you can then go about assessing livestock in a deductive, comparable manner. Included, you will find the industry standards and what classifies a desirable animal for show or for market. In livestock judging, the three species you primarily focus on are swine, beef, and sheep.

Why judge animals? Why does conformation matter?

The correct conformation of livestock (and all animals in general) promotes an overall, better quality of life for animals. The more correct the angles in the skeletal system, the more fluid movements will become and less stress will be caused to the body over time. Judging animals is one way to improve herd quality and health.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Why is it important?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Deep bodied</td>
<td>More room for proper digestion and carrying a calf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level topline</td>
<td>Proper skeletal alignment; less prone to injury/lameness over time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balanced</td>
<td>Aesthetically pleasing; less prone to injury/lameness over time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appropriately muscled</td>
<td>Proper support of joints and bones; indicative of healthy overall condition; more muscle yields higher cutability in a beef animal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Illustration of the correct internal structure of a beef heifer.

Source: http://britishwhite.com/british-white-cattle-selection-guide/
Activity – Candy Judging

Materials needed:
- 1 sheet of paper per person
- Assortment of bite- or snack-size candy for everyone (4 different kinds per person)
- Writing utensils for everyone

Description:
The purpose of this activity is to make connections to the livestock and judging industry by allowing the children to create their own “ideal” candy.

Instructions:
- Pass out four different candies to each child
- Have them describe what characteristics their ideal candy should have (Ex: chocolaty, caramel, crunchy, soft, attractive wrapping, etc.)
- After they have described what they would like to have in their ideal candy, have them describe and rank the candy that they were given (1-4)
- Lastly, have them describe in pairs, why each placed over the other (allow two pros and two cons for each pairing)
- To go a step further you may have the students memorize what they have wrote and, individually, give their reasons as to why they placed their candy the way they did to the group of students and/or one selected individual.
- Candy to be eaten after the activity is completed. (Yum!)
- Make a point to note the connection between candy selection and judging to livestock selection and judging.

Conclusion
The opportunity for public speaking is one of the hallmarks of the 4-H program and it gives youth competence and confidence, along with a very important life skill. Livestock judging is a great way to practice the art of public speaking and develop critical thinking skills while having fun!