4-H Animal Science Lesson Plan
Advocacy
Level 1, 2

Where Our Food Comes From

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Goal (learning objective)
Youth will learn where their food comes from.

Lesson directions and outline
Share the following information with the youth:

Whether you raise livestock or not, understanding where our food comes from is important to understanding the industry and how it is crucial to feeding the world. Most of the products we use every day come from agriculture. A big part of this is the livestock industry.

Where our food comes from is also based on areas where the climate is ideal, there is necessary space, and necessary resources for those animals. Census maps for each production species show where they are more highly concentrated.

Understanding where our food comes from how it is raised can help us become better advocates for the agricultural industry. Tip sheets in the resources section are available on ways to practice public relations.

Conducting the activity (DO)

Activity 1

1. Distribute and review Handout 2 with the group.
2. Have members pick a food item, work your way back through the Food Production Chain to determine how it came to be on your table.
3. Review with group tips on dealing with the general public and media. Review basic messages to communicate with everyone about your animals and the agricultural industry.
4. Have members divide into 3 small groups. Have them practice talking about how their animals are raised and how they move through the food production chain to feed the population. After each member has presented have each person in the group as a question as if they were interested, concerned citizen, activist, or protester.
Activity 2

1. List or use different colors for each species to color in the blank US map where the top 10 states for production of each species are located. (Refer to Handouts 3-7).

2. Further activity make arrangements to do a tour of a farm with a local producer.

What did we learn? (REFLECT)

- Ask: How did you feel when someone questioned how you raised your animals or the industry you’re in?
- Ask: What are some effective tips that you can use when being questioned?

Why is that important? (APPLY)

- Ask: Why is it important to know where our food comes from and how it gets to our plate?
- Ask: Why is it important to understand how our food choices can provide us with a healthy lifestyle?

Resources


