Animal Identification

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Goal (learning objective)
Youth will learn about animal identification methods and why they are necessary for record keeping.

Supplies
- Photocopies of Handout 1 - “Which Animal Should I Choose From The Pen?” (enough for group)
- Pencils (enough for group)
- Internet access or materials to use to research animal identification types

Pre-lesson preparation
- Photocopy Handout 1 (make enough for group)
- Secure a meeting facility that has internet access or find resources that members can use to research identification types for all species
- Read/Review lesson
- Review the handout and terminology

Lesson directions and outline
Share the following information with the youth:
It is essential to understand how important individual animal identification is to tracking animal health and movement throughout their life. There are many styles and types of animal identification. Tags, tattoos, neck chains, leg bands, brands, paint brands, nose prints and ear notching are just a few. Asking youth to research and identify the most cost-effective method for their farm will help them explore options that they may not have considered in the past.

Conducting the activity (DO)
1. Ask for a volunteer to distribute Handout 1
2. Have youth research the different animal identification methods. They need to record on Handout 1 if the method is permanent, semi-permanent or temporary. In addition, they need to record if the method is appropriate to utilize on their animal.
3. Give the group 10-15 minutes to research identification methods.
4. Have members share their work with the group.

What did we learn? (REFLECT)
- Ask: Why is animal identification important?
- Ask: How does animal identification methods change amongst the species? Why?
Why is that important? (Apply)

- Ask: How does animal identification impact quality assurance?
- Ask: How is herd health impacted by animal identification?

Resources


WHAT FORM OF IDENTIFICATION SHOULD I USE?

My project animal species: ____________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal Identification Method</th>
<th>Is the method permanent, semi-permanent, or temporary</th>
<th>Is the identification method appropriate or not appropriate, for your animal? If not appropriate, which animal(s) is it appropriate to use that method with?</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ear Notching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ear Tag</td>
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<td>Tattoo</td>
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<td>Brand</td>
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<td>Leg Band</td>
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