Carcass show and judging contest educates Idaho County 4-H and FFA members

AT A GLANCE
Idaho County 4-H and FFA members were in need of learning how to grade beef, sheep and swine carcasses. A carcass show and judging contest was held to address this need.

The Situation
Consumers continue to demand high quality meat. Idaho County 4-H and FFA market livestock project members feed, manage, exhibit and market an animal that ends up in the food chain. It is important that youth members learn how to grade beef, sheep and swine carcass so that they know the quality standards they should target with their livestock projects.

Our Response
A market livestock carcass show and judging contest was held the week following the Idaho County Fair. Beef, sheep and swine carcasses that were sent from the fair to Sonnen Meats in Greencreek were included in the show and contest. The 4-H and FFA members were taught how beef, sheep and swine carcasses are graded for carcass quality and yield.

After the lesson, a carcass judging contest was held with two classes of beef carcasses, swine carcasses and sheep carcasses that the members had to evaluate and place. Cash awards, sponsored by Sonnen Meats, were given to the top three placing judges.

Program Outcomes
The carcass show and judging contest was a success. There were 57 4-H and FFA members in attendance along with 20 adults. The youth club members and parents learned how each species is graded. They learned the quality grades and yield grades for beef and sheep carcasses and what factors are considered when assigning a quality and yield grade. The participants learned the U.S. grades for hog carcasses and the factors that are used to determine the grade.

The participants learned how to evaluate carcasses and determine which one had a higher quality and yield grade so that they could place them in the judging contest.
A quiz was given to the participants to evaluate their understanding of the information taught during the class. The score on this quiz was added to the scores from the carcass classes to determine the winners of the judging contest.

The judging contest and quiz provided an opportunity for the 4-H and FFA members to apply what they had learned during the carcass show and educational program.

The top three carcasses judging contest winners were: Olivia Klapprich who placed first; Riley Enneking, second place and Sydney Rylaarsdam-Schoo in third place. Cash awards totaling $175 was given to these top three placing judges. The first place winner won a cash award of $100, the second place winner received $50 dollars and the third winner received a check for $25.

The Future

The Idaho County 4-H and FFA carcass show and contest will be held annually. This is a very valuable educational program for market livestock project members. Information learned from this program will help 4-H and FFA members set goals to produce high quality beef, lamb and pork.

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

Special thanks to Norm and Julie Sonnen, owners of Sonnen Meats in Greencreek, Idaho. They allowed the carcass show and judging contest to be held in their business and provided $175 in cash awards for the top three placing judges in the carcass judging contest.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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