

There are two activities listed here that can be used for additional learning opportunities. These can teach daily responsibility of feeding and various concepts of animal management challenges such as introducing new feed, water, time management and animal observation.

Experiment Activity I: Goal to teach daily responsibility of feeding.

Situation: You are raising an animal for your livestock project. You need to have an average daily gain of 6 beans to make market weight of 4 oz in 30 days. Your 4-H leader teaches you the average for the species is 6 beans per day, but some people have gotten gains as high as 8 beans. Feed conversion is 1 bean of feed = 1 bean of gain.

Hypothesis: If I feed my animal _____ times a day with _____ beans of feed, my ADG will be _____ beans per day. My animal will make minimum market weight of 4 oz by using the above feeding method.

Methods:

- Create your animal that must be able to hold feed.
- Purchase all your feed (beans) and decide how many times a day to feed your animal and how much at each feeding.
- Weigh-in your animal.
- Take your animal home and feed it every day for 30 days as your hypothesis indicates. If you miss a feeding-you cannot double feed. If you did not purchase enough feed. When you run out feed half a feeding once you get new feed for 7 days & then back on your plan for the rest of feeding period.
- Final Weigh-in of your animal and determine ADG.

Need: Beans or other type of feed (beans work well because they come in different sizes.) Milk carton type animal, scales. Paper or calendar to track how much you feed each day.

Experiment: Create your animal and feed it for 30 days

Results: Record what you did and what your animal weighs

Conclusion: Was your hypothesis true or false? What happens if your animal does not have the ADG you predicted?

July

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