

Southern Regional Livestock School

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Program Purpose

To provide youth an opportunity to gain knowledge in animal projects. The goal of the Southern Regional Livestock School is to provide an opportunity for youth and their parents to learn the ins and outs of livestock projects to better equip them for a successful project year. Livestock projects are goal oriented ventures providing youth self-discipline, self-responsibility, empathy, character and record keeping skills. Youth and parents will develop a better understanding of showmanship/presentation of their animal, training/exercise programs, day to day care, and basic feeding knowledge.



Learning how to shear lambs.



2023 Group Photo

Program Details

The school is divided into four species specific instructional tracks including sheep, goat, swine and cattle. Each track allows a maximum of thirty participants. Areas of focus include Showmanship, Nutrition, Grooming and Clipping, Animal Health and Animal Selection. At registration youth are provided a school t-shirt and a species specific "starter kit" bucket including halters, hair products and brushes. An optional fourth day to livestock school is also offered as an open livestock jackpot. Youth have an opportunity to present mastery of skill with not only those who participated in the school but with other youth from around NM.

Overall Goals of Livestock School:

- to increase general understanding of animal selection
- to educate youth on proper nutrition, grooming, feeding and animal health
- educate youth on better animal handling techniques and showmanship



Hands on demonstrations and classroom instruction help balance out the long hot days and provide a variation of instructional methods.



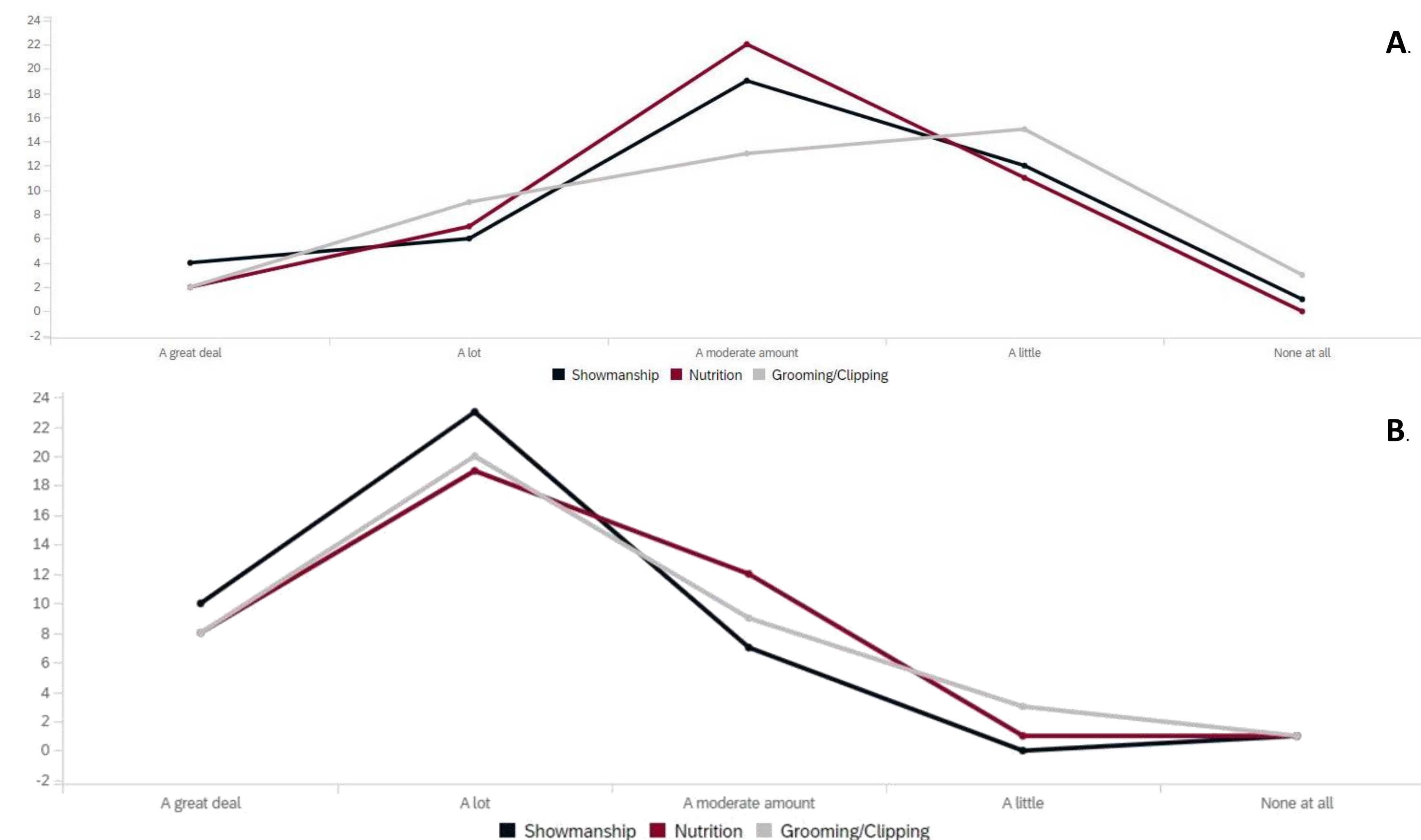
These kids really care for their animals!



Showmanship practice three times a day.

Impacts/Results

For the past two years, Southern Regional Livestock School had a total participation of 245 youth reaching at least five SW Counties. 95% of which indicated they had a deeper understanding of their livestock project after participating in the school. 97% of participants also indicated they were more confident in all components of the school including showmanship, day to day care, clipping and grooming, feeding and nutrition and show day preparation (Figure 1). One individual indicated their favorite component of livestock school was "The feedback and the way I could see results from hands-on-learning". A parent additionally stated "both of my boys gained so much confidence from the workshop. This was their first year in cattle breeding. There was so much to learn, but the confidence they gained is unexplainable."



Partners/Collaborators

The agent collaborated with Hidalgo, Socorro and Dona Ana County Extension for program development and implementation. Additionally the agent was able to obtain local sponsorships through Tractor Supply (buckets), The Running Iron Boutique (T-shirts), Southwest Food Service Excellence (School Meals), The Orchard (Instructor Lodging), and Farm Bureau Financial Services (movie/popcorn) and The City of TorC.

Figure 1. Overall level of knowledge in Showmanship, Nutrition and Grooming/Clipping increased. A. Level of Knowledge prior to attending Livestock School. B. Level of Knowledge after attending Livestock School.

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