

Teaching Quality Assurance for Animals to Gain Market Access

Bruynis¹, K.A., Bruynis², C.L., Morris³, J.V., and Neal⁴, N.L. – Ohio State University Extension

INTRODUCTION

Assuring Quality Care for Animals curriculum provides consistent information to livestock producers on best management husbandry techniques coupled with scientific knowledge. Included are best practices for good record keeping, protecting herd health, ensuring safety and well-being of animals, and creating a safe food supply to consumers. Critical issues of quality assurance, food safety, animal handling and well-being were added to the youth programs. When adopting best management practices, higher quality meat reaches the supermarket, consumers are more confident, resulting in increased demand and profitability.

The two main audiences targeted for Assuring Quality Care for Animals are producers involved with raising, exhibiting, and marketing livestock through Jr Fair exhibitions and adult producers marketing livestock to packers.



In the past five years, more than 2,000 youth have received training annually. Adults receive training every three years and there are more than 300 each training.



BACKGROUND

Assuring Quality Care for Animals programs are well established in the United States. These programs have shifted from voluntary participation, to being required to gain market access. In 2018, several meat packers and commercial buyers wanted their beef supply produced under quality assurance guidelines. These consumer driven demands have allowed OSU Extension to provide local programming to help farmers and youth gain market access.



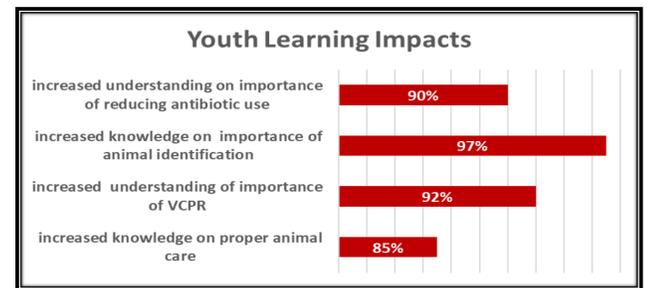
The 10 Good Productions Practices are:

- GPP1: Use an Appropriate Veterinarian/Client /Patient Relationship (VCPR) as the Basis for Medication Decision-Making
- GPP2: Establish and Implement an Efficient and Effective Health Management Plan
- GPP3: Use Antibiotics Responsibly
- GPP4: Properly Store and Administer Animal Health Products
- GPP5: Follow Proper Feed Processing Protocols
- GPP6: Establish Effective Animal Identification, Medication Records and Withdrawal Times.
- GPP7: Practice Good Environmental Stewardship
- GPP8: Maintain Proper Workplace Safety
- GPP9: Provide Proper Animal Handling and Care
- GPP10: Utilize Tools for Continuous Improvement

IMPACTS

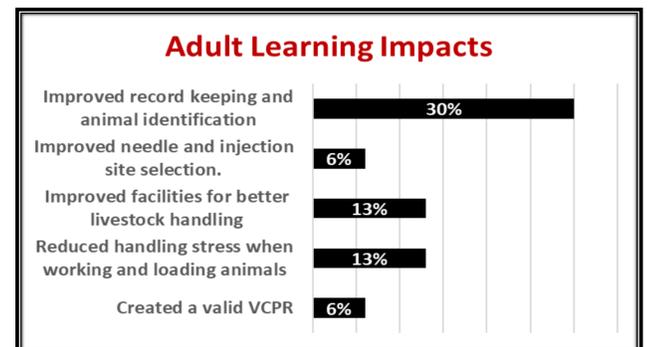
For the youth trainings, participant survey data indicated that 85% increased their knowledge on proper animal care, 92% increased their understanding on the importance of a Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR), and 97% increased their knowledge on the importance of animal identification. Additionally, 90% of survey participants indicated an increase in understanding of the importance of reducing

antibiotic use and how they can care for their animal to accomplish that objective.



As a result of quality assurance training, adult participants reported they intended to make the following changes in their farm operations. Changes mentioned were 30% improved record keeping and animal identification, 13% reduced handling stress when working and loading animals, 13% improved facilities for better livestock handling, and 6% for both having a valid VCPR as well as improved needle and injection site selection.

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The Assuring Quality Care for Animals programs are showing significant knowledge gain in both youth and adult audiences. This increased knowledge results in improved animal husbandry practices resulting in better market access and wholesome food products.

