

Janet Schmidt, WSU Whitman County Extension, Colfax, WA 99111

Mark Heitstuman, WSU Asotin & Garfield Counties Extension, Asotin, WA 99402

BACKGROUND

With the aging demographics of livestock judges, a limited number of livestock judges and an increasing number of 4-H and FFA youth showing goats, there is a need for trained individuals to evaluate livestock projects at junior shows and fairs in the Pacific Northwest. In addition, youth livestock shows, sales committees and fair boards frequently experience conflict that could be avoided or minimized if show management had a broader understanding of current issues affecting the livestock industry.

INTRODUCTION

After analyzing the current situation regarding availability of knowledgeable livestock judges and show management personnel, the planning committee decided to offer two concurrent tracks; a judges school and a show management conference. With the expense and complexity of offering a multi-specie judging school, the planning committee decided to focus on organizing a high quality sheep and goat judges school with plans to offer other specie schools in the future.

PURPOSE

The judges track focused on evaluating market sheep and goats, live and on the rail. Breeding and fitting and showing classes were also featured. Speakers discussed show ring management, oral reasons, role of the judge as an educator, microphone presence and packer expectations of youth livestock projects.

The show management track focused on financial management, accounting for livestock sales committees, bio-security, livestock handling procedures, youth quality assurance, selecting and hiring qualified judges, fair management software (Fair Entry & ShoWorks), emergency management and show ring procedures.

“I really enjoyed the depth and variability of the knowledge of the sheep judges and Extension Educators...”

“I LOVED the program! I learned so much and it was a great group of presenters as well as attendees.....”

THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Janet Schmidt, WSU Whitman County Extension, Colfax, WA 99111

Mark Heitstuman, WSU Asotin County Extension, Asotin, WA 99402

Dr. Jan Busboom, Meat Scientist Emeritus, WSU, Pullman, WA 99164

Dr. Michael Colle, Meat Scientist, U of I, Moscow, ID 83843

Dr. Jeremy Falk, Agricultural Education, U of I, Moscow, ID 83843

Patti Gylling, Goat Producer/Judge, Cle Elum, WA 98922

Sarah Smith, Regional Livestock Specialist, WSU, Moses Lake, WA 08837

Dr. Paul Kuber, Regional Livestock Specialist, WSU, Spokane, WA 98837

Sarah Fluer, U of I Latah County Extension, Moscow, ID 83843

Alex Johnson, Agricultural Science, Cusick High School, Cusick, WA 99119

Pam Watson, WSU Lewis County Extension, Chehalis, WA 98532



PROGRAM METHODOLOGY

The theme for the school/conference was *Quality People, Quality Project, Quality Programming*, with Dr. Jan Busboom as the keynote speaker.

- Two day program held on the WSU Campus with evening panel discussion
 - Day 1– 8am to 8pm
 - Day 2– 8am to 5pm
- Facilities
 - Cattle feeding lab
 - Meats Lab
 - Ensminger Pavilion
- Registration fee of \$150-BrownPaperTickets or mail
 - Included meals and materials on a thumb drive
- Sheep and goats purchased from Spokane Jr. Show
- After the school, animals sold to a local ethnic market
- Meals/snacks provided by a local 4-H club as a fundraiser
- Sponsorship acquired from Livestock Industry
- 4-H and FFA youth were recruited to handle animals
- Other presenters came from WSU Vet School

EVALUATION AND RESULTS

- 18 people attended the judges school
- 8 people attended the show management conference
- A Qualtrics survey was emailed to all participants after the program.
- 75% of judges school respondents said the school contributed significantly to their knowledge of live stock shows.
- 90% of judges school participants rated the program as excellent or good.
- 67% of show management respondents said that the conference contributed significantly to their knowledge of livestock shows.
- 100% of show management respondents said they were going to implement one or more of the following changes:
 - More handwashing stations, emergency management planning, increase biosecurity measures.
- 100% of both groups indicated they would like to attend a PNW Judges School or Show Management Conference in the future.