

National 4-H Judging Contests (examples include – livestock, horse, meats, dairy, poultry, wool / mohair etc.)

Situation: 4-H youth are rewarded with national trips to participate in national 4-H contests nationwide. These youth put in a great deal of time and effort in practicing for these contests and competing at the local, district, regional, statewide and national level.

Inputs	Outputs		Outcomes -- Impact		
	Activities	Participants	Short	Medium	Long
<p>County Extension Agents, adult leaders, volunteers, university faculty & staff, and youth leaders are all responsible for contributing to the development of 4-H youth participating in national 4-H judging contests.</p> <p>Funding their participation is typically raised at the county or state level to support these kids to travel to these national events.</p> <p>Most states have educational resources (publications, videos, online resources) to aid in teaching youth how to judge.</p>	<p>Most of the activity outputs are implemented at the local level. Every year, youth participate in judging practices, meetings, workshops, and clinics to learn and practice judging.</p> <p>In addition, youth typically learn outside of these planned activities and fine-tune their skills individually at home during their spare time. This includes learning identification items and practicing written / oral reasons.</p>	<p>Youth participating in national 4-H judging contests are typically high school aged youth (14-18) that put in a great deal of time in effort at the county and state level to qualify for these national 4-H contests.</p>	<p>Youth participating in national 4-H contests have demonstrated increases in knowledge on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - industry driven objectives and learning principles (livestock knowledge, meats knowledge, dairy, etc). - increase in knowledge on priority setting, note taking, public speaking, decision making, and goal setting. - Increase knowledge on other production systems in parts of the country where the contests are held that these youth may not see if it were not for traveling to these national contest. 	<p>Youth participating in national 4-H contests have demonstrated behavior changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - public speaking, goal setting, teamwork, teaching others, priority setting, how to judge appropriately, group think, listening skills, communication, risk taking 	<p>Some of the long term benefits of participating in national 4-H contests may not be noted for years, but some include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - college choices (including university, colleges, and majors) - Choices in careers (within these fields of study) - confidence in decision making - work ethic - Communication with co-workers - Teamwork on team oriented projects

Assumptions

The major assumption is that youth are rewarded for participation because of their success and long-term commitment to their 4-H judging contest for years.

External Factors

Youth that participate in national 4-H contests have a wide array of backgrounds. Some may live on a farm or ranch where they grow up learning about the content for which they are judging. Others may have more limited backgrounds and must use the contests and practices as their only significant learning opportunities. So, youth come to these national 4-H events with differences in their home life, support at home, and experience.