

Taney County 4-H Livestock Show is June 4

FORSYTH, Mo. – The 4-H and FFA youth in Taney County work all year to prepare their livestock and project work for end of year competitions. The first competition of the summer is to show their livestock, present their speeches, and show project exhibits at the Taney County 4-H Livestock Show and Achievement Day which will be held at Shadowrock Park on Saturday, June 4th starting at 8:30 AM. Youth will continue to showcase their projects at the regional Ozark Empire Fair and the Missouri State Fair.

Thanks to the dedicated 4-H volunteers and sponsors of this year's event, youth will participate in various livestock shows including poultry, sheep, goats, and rabbits and the Achievement Day competitions. "People are familiar with the idea of a livestock show but they might not know the care and value the youth place on their show animals", said Willa Williams 4-H youth specialist. "One of our 4-H members was asked by a spectator if he would sell his duck, and he politely smiled and declined, that show duck is priceless to him."

The 4-H volunteer leaders have helped increase the number of youth participating in animal projects in Taney County. For example, the Hollister 4-H club has a large horse project group and four members are currently on a national 4-H equine tour. With a Cattlemen's Association in Taney County and with the assistance of College of the Ozarks Beef Farm, Taney County 4-H also hopes to enlist more youth to show cattle. To encourage this, the 4-H show will host a beef cattle judging contest along with the horse, sheep, shooting sports, and poultry judging contests. In a judging contest, youth are given four animals or items to rank and the youth are then scored on their ranking choice and their reasoning skills. According to a study by Texas Tech University there were six main benefits of youth raising and showing livestock identified: social relationships, character, family togetherness and values, exposure to competition, exposure to cultures, and the knowledge and care of animals.

4-H project work is about increasing the life skills of youth so there are also lots of other 4-H projects to showcase, everything from hiking to rocketry and robotics. These projects are showcased in the Achievement Day program that runs concurrently to the Livestock Show. The public is invited to come out and watch the competitions which start in the morning and will end by early afternoon. Individuals and businesses became sponsors for the event which provided supplies such as ribbons, t-shirts, lunch, facilities, and supplies. Thankfully we had great 4-H supporters that sponsored each show: Dan and Sheila Wyatt – Achievement Day, Robberta Mesenbrink – Sheep Show, Kristopher Peters – Poultry Show, and Dr. Nathan Woodward Forsyth Dental – Meat and Dairy Goat Shows. Community sponsors such as College of the Ozarks Beef Farm, Taney County Farm Bureau, Melanie Smith – Taney County Treasurer, Marc and Marva Ramsey, In Memory of Ronnie Melton, Arvest Bank, and Branson Bank also provided significant support to help make this event a success. With community support and a renewed interest in the science, technology, engineering, and math skills learned in animal projects and other projects in 4-H and FFA, this event will continue to grow in the future.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information about the livestock show, STEM, or 4-H, contact Willa Williams, 4-H youth development specialist at the Taney County Extension Center in Forsyth by phone at 417-546-4431, by e-mail at williamswl@missouri.edu or go to our website at <http://extension.missouri.edu/taney>

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