



AN ASSESSMENT OF THE TEXAS 4-H AND FFA YOUTH LIVESTOCK PROGRAM: SCOPE, PERCEPTIONS, AND RETURN-ON-INVESTMENT

- Three surveys – CEA, AST, livestock exhibitor families – THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING
- All 3 indicated the livestock project either *somewhat or definitely* fosters an environment for increasing educational outcomes and life skill development traits in the areas of: responsibility, sportsmanship, work ethic, respect, ethical decision making, animal science knowledge, knowledge about the food supply, safe animal handling and welfare knowledge, and knowledge about producing a safe food animal product.
- All 3 agreed life skills (99.5%) and educational outcomes (98.5%) learned through the livestock project *are relevant in real-world application*.
- Regardless of the negativity expressed by respondents in terms of monetary returns, all three respondent groups indicated the livestock project is *definitely worth the investment* in the areas of: family time spent together, educational outcomes, life skill development, professional connections, and career preparation.
- 97.90% of all respondents agreed participation in the livestock project is *worth the investment when all intrinsic and extrinsic returns* were considered.
- Species averages as reported by exhibitor families: market steers - \$7,730.18, heifers – \$7,445.63, barrows – \$2,156.16, gilts – \$1,987.92, market lambs – \$2,460.67, market goats – \$2,375.64, rabbits – \$208.24, broilers/chickens – \$198.78 (per group of 25 birds), turkeys – \$1,081.05 (per group of 25 birds), breeding sheep – \$2,375.46, wether dams – \$2,571.93, breeding does – \$2,145.75, and wether does – \$2,080.34.
- Estimated grand total amount spent on state-validated livestock projects - \$196,482,231.24. (Not inclusive of all livestock projects, only state validated).
- Livestock exhibitor families reported they invested approximately 25.88 hours per exhibitor per week in time spent with their livestock projects.
- Texas young people invest 37,234,635.40 hours per year. (2015 average # exhibitors)
- Very NOTABLY: *livestock exhibitor families* reported the highest perceived outcomes related to life skill development and educational outcomes. They also reported responses most understanding of financial contributions and gains.
- When asked who they go to for assistance with their projects, 22.12% of livestock exhibitor families reported they ask their breeder for help. This was followed by 20.22% asking family friends for assistance. Agricultural Science Teachers ranked third in this list with County Extension Agents ranking fifth in the list of who exhibitors go to for help.