

4-Hers Learn about Meats Judging and Carcass Quality



On July 14, 2018 the Box Butte County 4-H program teamed up with a local meat processing business, Table Top Meats in Hemingford, NE, to teach 4-H youth and parents about what is under the skin of their livestock projects. A total of 28 youth and 16 adults from two counties learned about producing & ensuring good quality, consumable meat. Youth and adults were able to view real hung beef, swine and sheep carcasses. They also learned about different cuts of meat, meat quality, how to grade meat, and also how to determine a male carcass from a female carcass. Youth were introduced to meats judging and were able to practice on the beef carcass. The 4-Hers gave reasons and placings of the beef carcasses. The Carcass clinic allowed youth and parents to really see what goes on before our meat is bought at a grocery store.

"I want to do meats judging in college and open up my own buthcer shop." – 16 year old Box Butte County 4-Her

On-Farm Research Collaborates with Growers and Industry.

As a part of the Nebraska On-Farm Research Network we are working with growers and Industry across the state to answer questions on farm using growers fields and equipment. 2018 was an active year in the Panhandle and Southwest Nebraska. Seven research studies were conducted evaluating dry bean varieties, population, and row spacing. Nebraska On-Farm Research Network, 2017 conducted 80+ studies state wide:

- Total producer acres farmed or managed = 145,650
- Total advisor/employee acres represented = 1,966,677
- Average value placed on knowledge gained = \$14.32/acre
- Total combined value or program = \$30+ million.

In support of our work the Nebraska Dry Bean Commission has awarded us 4 grants totaling nearly \$40,000 for our on farm research work relating to the direct harvest of dry edible beans.

"We need this type of research on dry beans, there are fewer researchers doing this work these days" – Industry Partner



Safe Handling of Pesticides Emphasized Through Training



Chemicals are a critical part of the Agricultural industry. Trainings is very important and legally mandated, particularly when using the more hazardous products and technologies such as Chemigation to treat their acres. Many problems occur nationwide from improper or careless use of pesticides! State law requires licensing for the purchase and application of restricted use pesticides and for applying chemicals via Chemigation. UNL takes the lead in this training! Growers were trained at 12 sessions held in the central and northern Panhandle.

- 377 licensed for private pesticide application
- 55 licensed for chemigation chemical application

"You guys made pesticide training interesting" – Grower