

Multi-County 4-H Activity Day - Ward County

The situation

4-H agents in Northwest North Dakota have, for the past 25 years, offered their 4-H members a chance to: 1) become acquainted with a variety of 4-H projects; 2) participate in hands-on learning experiences; 3) develop life skills; and 4) share experiences across county lines. Continued participation in the Multi-County 4-H Activity Day indicates that 4-H members continue to appreciate those opportunities to learn.

Extension response

Ward County has hosted the multi-county activity since 1984. That year twenty-six 4-Hers attended and each chose 4 classes from among the 12 offered, all of which were taught only once. In 2008 we registered 219 kids (both 4-Hers and non-4-Hers). They chose from 36 classes, each one offered at least twice and some offered four times throughout the day. Multi-county 4-H Activity Day, now held at the North Dakota State Fair Center, is the biggest event of the 4-H program year (next to Achievement Days.) The wonderful thing about Activity Day is that agents from Ward County as well as Williams, Burke/Divide, Mountrail, Renville, McHenry, Pierce and Bottineau Counties and the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, help plan the event, teach classes, and bring their 4-Hers. Everyone gets a chance to interact with someone from another community.

Impacts

One question asked by the transformational education model is: Is this information helping people solve problems? The answer to that question is yes. Hands-on activities that fit into each of the main 4-H project areas are chosen so 4-H members may

have a chance to complete up to four exhibits for Achievement Days. These classes also fit right into the experiential learning model we use in 4-H. It's truly a "learn by doing" event. The wide variety of choices allows kids to develop more advanced skills in areas they have been working on or get a taste of something completely new. It's a wonderful way for kids to discover more about what interests them and what doesn't. The success of the Multi-County Activity Day is also due to the wonderful people who volunteer their time to teach kids a new skill.

Feedback

Some of the well received classes offered in 2008 included woodworking, lego robotics, glass etching, arranging flowers, Christmas wreaths, photography, horsemanship, shooting sports, and a variety of craft classes. We always have some frustrated kids who can't take all the classes they want to. Evaluations and attendance numbers indicate that the kids have a great time.

Contact

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