

Assuring Quality: A program for youth livestock producers -- Prevention Activity

Rotation Year One Activities

Prevention Activity: Instructions

Resources Needed:

Copies of following worksheet (one per youth)
Pencils

Procedure:

- A. Introduce the topic by discussing that the best way to avoid problems is with prevention. "Sometimes problems with livestock can occur when the person that usually takes care of them is gone, and someone else is taking care of the animals. The way to avoid problems is to properly prepare the people that will be taking care of the animals. Anticipate what could go wrong and by planning for it and preparing the people, you will likely not have any problems."
- B. Discuss whether any of the youth have had someone else care for their animals. Who was it? Why was someone else taking care of them? How did you prepare those people?
- C. Discuss that we are going to do a list of instructions, or a "prevention plan". Explain the situation on the top of the worksheet and have youth complete the worksheet. Actually have the youth complete the worksheet.
- D. Go through the worksheet, calling on different youth for different questions.
- E. For the questions at the end, some things to consider are:
 - Information they should know is what is on this sheet. If not provided, they should ask these questions.
 - Items that are special about animals may include their disposition, how to handle them, whether they like their nose scratched, etc. Possibly if some are in the habit of being able to get out of their pen, where they would likely go if not in there pen, etc. Also, if any are prone to lameness or other problems.
 - Sharing the information helps prevent potential problems. Although someone may be able to follow your instructions on how many buckets of corn to feed, he/she may not be prepared to deal with other situations. Listing the other information helps he/she to deal with whatever may happen.

Prevention Activity: Instructions

Youth worksheet

Whenever leaving for vacation or staying at an after school event, there are times when you are unable to care directly for your animals. Pretend you are going to go on vacation with your family for a week. Who is going to care for your animals while you are gone? Using the ideas below, list your response as you would need to write the instructions out for someone that really was caring for your animals while you were away.

1. Who is going to watch over my animals?
2. The number and the type of animals they will be responsible for is:
3. The feed is located at:
4. We give each animal (pen or herd) _____ amount of _____ feed (what kind of feed) each time we feed them.*
5. The animals need to be fed _____ times a day; we usually feed them around _____ (time) each day.*
6. We feed them at _____ (location).*
7. The animals need to be watered _____ times daily. The water tank is located at _____ and the faucet/bucket/hose is located at _____.*
If the tank is full, be sure to clean it.
8. There are _____ animals on medication. (Make a detailed list of the animals, what medications, how and when to give the medication, medication location and storage, and any other information needed.)*
9. Our vet is _____ and can be reached at _____ - _____.
10. We will be home _____ (date).

11. We will be staying at _____ and can be reached at _____ - _____, if you need to contact us.
12. Our neighbors, _____ can assist if necessary. They can be reached at _____ - _____.
13. Provide any other important information that may be needed.

*Do this question for as many animals or different responses that are needed.

If someone asked you to watch their animals, what information would you like to know before they left? What questions would you ask to be better prepared? What other items are special about your animals that you would want people to know? How will sharing of information help to ensure that your animals remain healthy?