FY2012 4-H Youth Development Impact
Stone County Livestock Club
Stone County

4-H Program Overview
Stone County

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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4-H Members</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4-H Clubs</td>
<td>11</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-H Volunteers</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>4-H Volunteer Hours</td>
<td>552</td>
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Highlights

- Increased Knowledge: 34
- Develop Life Skills: 7
- Shared What They Learned: 4
- Applied Management Practices: 4
- Increased Communication Skills: 5
- Increased Decision Making Skills: 5

"Improving knowledge and skills in agriculture, to benefit the future of Stone County."

–Livestock Club Mission Statement

Relevance

Stone County farms, in recent years, have been reduced by 18%. The education and implementation of livestock skills is needed to promote a sustainable agricultural economy. Therefore, the Stone County 4-H Livestock Club was created giving an opportunity for youth to learn life skills such as responsibility and financial management.

Response

The Livestock Club was organized to assist the 45% of Stone County 4-H'ers who live on farms in rural areas. The club held 10 monthly sessions in which soil, forages, feeds, meats, breeds, animal behavior/welfare, and showmanship skills were developed. Members receive hands on experience by visiting local farms and feed stores. The group works as a team to understand the curriculum brought forth each session. In addition, a showmanship clinic with state specialists was held to aide in grooming, using proper equipment, and showmanship for 36 4-H participants and their families preparing for fall competitions.

Results

The Stone County Livestock Club has been a huge success in helping youth understand animal husbandry. They have mastered life skills including communication, decision making, responsibility, and teamwork, as they participated at State O-Rama. Following the showmanship clinic, 60% became new presenters at the Stone County Fair. Both events promoted knowledge and confidence to excel in a competitive environment. With competitions and fair participation, club members put skills that were gained through the Livestock Club into practice. These practices allow members to gain knowledge and take on new responsibilities and for future work ethic and farm practices.

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