

## EXPANDING THE FOOTPRINT OF 4-H URBAN AGRICULTURE EDUCATION THROUGH PROGRAMMING AND PARTNERSHIPS, JEFFERSON COUNTY

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### PROJECT INTRODUCTION

The Covid pandemic resulted in shortages of many basic goods including , red meat. The trickle-down effect of this has been that more youths are interested in raising animals for meat – either for personal use or to sell to the public at the completion of their project.

In response to that, the Extension Office is determined to find ways to involve more Jefferson County youths in the 4-H livestock program, to educate the public on urban farming practices, or to strengthen connections with the Extension Office, depending on the successful applicant’s strongest interests.

### INTERNSHIP GOALS

The internship’s goals were to promote farming and raising livestock in urban settings, investigate current public knowledge of agriculture, plus how to expand, improve and make knowledge more prominent. It also aimed to expand our community presence through communication, visibility and/or locations. Keeping farm-to-plate education and public engagement alive through program development. Exploring and developing new partners for animal housing for urban 4-H youth. Supplement outreach programming as needed and connecting rural Jefferson County with 4-H resources.

### HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO YOUR EDUCATION

The internship allowed me to interact with farmers during field work, conduct in-depth interviews with farmers and youths and design agricultural Extension programs. These activities equipped me with a better understanding of the US agriculture and food systems which will allow me to conduct my research effectively as required by my program.

### WHAT YOU DID

I managed to organize an Agri-tour for urban kids and parents. Participants visited Morning Fresh Dairy farm, Mountain View Feedlot, CSU JBS Global Food Processing Lab and CSU ARDEC.

The tour gave me an opportunity to have an in-depth interviews with dairy and beef farmers about the challenges and opportunities they face.

I participated in the 4-H youth Agri-Camp in Jefferson County where we had to teach urban kids about agriculture and animal rearing. During Agriculture fair in Jefferson county, I also managed to have discussions with kids involved in agriculture about their challenges, opportunities and career options.

My supervisors assisted me with setting up an information desk during the fair. I discussed career options and CSU programs with both kids and adults. I also distributed CSU promotional flyers and fact sheets on various weeds.

### WHAT YOU LEARNED

During my internship I had the chance to plan, organize, and execute Extension programs for youth and the community. They will also gain skills to develop new. I was able to interact with the youths, in urban settings, farmers, and agribusinesses and design programs that bring together diverse group. I also had the opportunity to budget and negotiate for discounts and waivers.

Discussion with beef feedlot managers highlighted the increasing water shortages due to climate change and the impact of the pandemic on the beef demand. These challenges gives me insights on future research projects.

Interaction with kids showed that most of them are interested in agriculture and it is important to take opportunities and present to them ways in which they can be involved in agriculture. This may suggest the need for continued Extension efforts towards in line with urban farming techniques.

### NEXT STEPS

The experience and knowledge gained in the internship will guide me in developing research projects. The research projects are a requirement in my academic program.

I also believe that the activities carried out in this project will strengthen the relationship between the community and the extension office for future programming. The increased interaction between community and CSU Extension Office will increase the efficiency of the way extension programs are implemented.

Figure 1. (image)

