CAM'S AG ACADEMY: ON THE ROAD RIO BLANCO COUNTY

Stevie Thate

Jenny Bennett- Program of Agriculture education
Jonathan Vrabec- El Paso County CSU Extension Director and Specialist
Megan Stetson- Moffat County Extension Director and Specialist
Dessa Watson- Masters of Extension Education

PROJECT INTRODUCTION

- The CAM's Ag Academy aims for the upcoming agriculture enthusiasts and professionals by offering informal agricultural education within local communities. Our collaboration with CSU extension and county representatives, especially in youth programs like FFA and 4-H, has helped CAM's do such affective work. Being a program lead for Rio Blanco County I was able to visualize the affects of educating youth.

- Traveling around the state to various counties that we were able to provide on the road education.

- Why- People in Colorado are disconnected from agriculture, people are disconnected with only 3.38% of Colorado is involved with agriculture.

INTERNSHIP GOALS

- Create impactful agriculture literature for county fairs

- Improve youth knowledge perceptions towards agriculture to increase ag lit
- Increase in youth engagement in ag lit outreach to promote the development of the next generation

- To evaluate the enhancement of the agriculture literature program to increase literacy to improve future program endeavors

HOW DOES THIS APPLY TO YOUR EDUCATION

- Program Planning

- Community Engagement

- Learning how to adapt the teaching to different situations

- Knowing the general publics general understanding to agriculture

- Communication with CSU extension and stakeholders

WHAT YOU DID

Being a county with a small population of approximately 6,596 they are a county that is reliant on coal, oil, and natural gases. With in Rio Blanco county they are very supportive of agriculture with having sheep and cattle one of their top commodities.

- Rio Blanco County programming August 3-5

- Programming consisted of classroom lessons that AmeriCorps and Ag in the classroom created to showcase agriculture. We also had a scavenger hunt that consisted of posters around the fair to give educated facts about different livestock species. There was also the Junior Ag Ambassador program that youth would complete using the scavenger hunt.

- Provided youth training to become a peer educator
    - JAA, Classroom, Scavenger Hunt

Figure 1

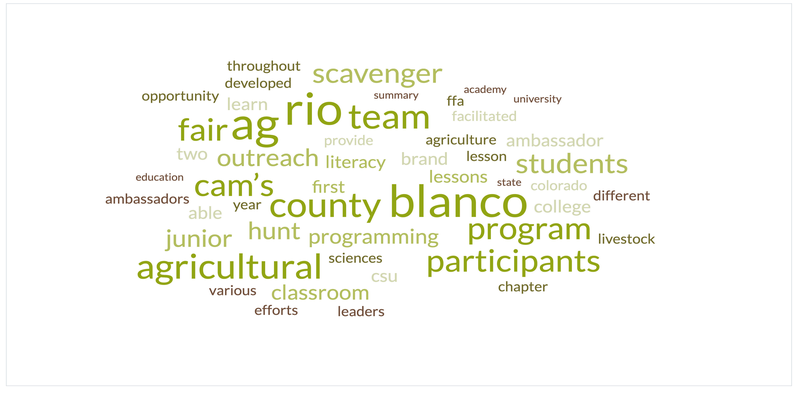
Description: Figure 1 students reciting the Junior Ag Ambassador Oath, after completing the Scavenger Hunt

WHAT YOU LEARNED

Over the three days of programming we saw youth coming back more than once in the day , and multiple times through out the fair. There was also a phenomenal amount of community that was involved with their own kids to participate in the programming.

- Cams Classroom
    - 106 students
- Scavenger Hunt
    - 141
- Junior Ag Ambassador
    - 96 Completion
- Youth involvement
    - 10 Peer Educators
- Observed Outcomes
    - Apply previous knowledge and connect it to the lesson
    - Significant amount kids coming back 6-10 times over the three days to keep redoing the activity
    - Several kids that started as participants then on their own wanted to become peer educators

Figure 2



Description: Figure 2 is a word bubble to represent all the important vocabulary that is used for the Rio Blanco County Fair.

NEXT STEPS

Future steps for Rio Blanco County would to create more time to engage with youth prior to coming for their county fair. This gives us a chance to connect more with the youth, to prepare ourselves better for the county fair.