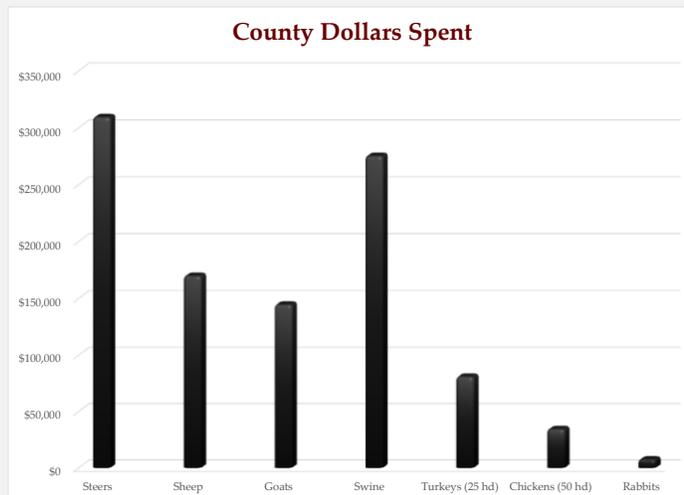


Livestock Project Economics:

Brazos County

October 2017

Raising livestock is one of the most unique and rewarding projects the 4-H program has to offer. Livestock projects allow 4-H'ers to gain an invaluable knowledge base on livestock production systems, animal nutrition, and the responsibility necessary to raise an animal from weaning to finishing. However, with these opportunities, also comes incurred costs and inputs.



Species	Total Validated*	Avg. Per Head	Total Avg. Amount Invest
Steers	97	\$5,840.32	\$566,511.04
Sheep	75	\$1,700.55	\$127,541.25
Goats	85	\$1,447.73	\$123,057.05
Swine	200	\$1,377.30	\$275,460.00
Turkeys (25 hd)	16	\$1,620.76	\$25,932.16
Chickens (50 hd)	40	\$690.85	\$27,634.00
Rabbits	175	\$151.75	\$26,556.25
Total	688	\$12,829.26	\$1,172,691.75

*Total Head Validated is for 2016 because 2017 numbers are not complete, yet.

In Brazos County, \$1,172,691.75 is being spent on livestock projects and incurred costs from raising show animals. As a whole, the livestock show industry is generating about \$107,701,325.20 annually in the state of Texas. It is important to note that this number does not only affect exhibitors and their families. This dollar amount is also benefitting producers, local feed stores, hardware stores, veterinarians, and many more local businesses!

Key points to consider about the benefits of youth raising livestock projects:

These livestock projects teach youth about the importance of time management, how to care and tend to an animal, financial planning and record keeping skills.

These livestock project teach youth how to be a gracious loser and a humble winner.

Although the majority of these projects are costly, the one aspect that makes livestock projects different from other projects is that it is a family project. It requires multiple members of the family to work together to care for the livestock, contribute toward a family goal, and provides opportunities for more family time together.

Lastly, these livestock projects can help youth pay for future project and future educational goals.



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