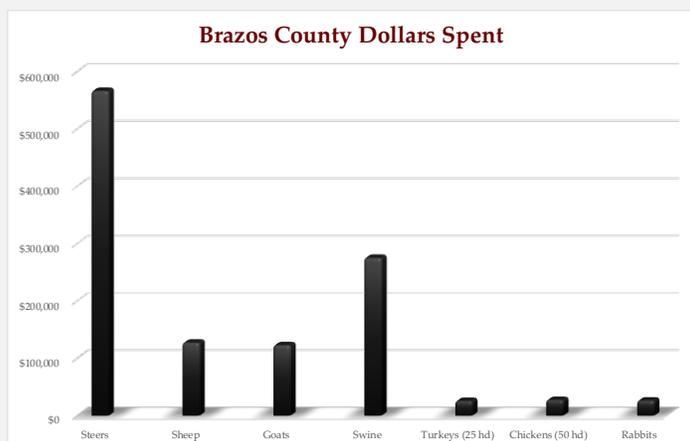


Brazos County Livestock Projects Economic Impact

Based on figures from 2016

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

In Brazos County, \$1,172,691.75 was spent on livestock projects and incurred costs from raising show animals in 2016. As a whole, the livestock show industry is generating about \$107,701,325.20 annually (as of 2016) in the state of Texas. It's 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 other local businesses!

Consider these benefits of youth livestock projects:

- 1) Livestock projects teach youth about the importance of time management, how to care for and tend to an animal, financial planning, and record keeping skills.
- 2) Livestock projects teach youth how to be gracious losers and humble winners.
- 3) Although the majority of livestock projects are costly, livestock projects differ from other projects in that they are *family projects*—requiring multiple members of a family to:
 - a) work together to care for the livestock,
 - b) contribute toward a shared goal, and
 - c) have opportunities for more quality time spent together.
- 4) Livestock projects can help youth pay for future projects and educational goals.

The members of Texas A&M AgriLife will provide equal opportunities in programs and activities, education, and employment to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, sexual orientation or gender identity and will strive to achieve full and equal employment opportunity throughout Texas A&M AgriLife.