

Project Title: Influenza Education among Youth in Agriculture

Re: Youth in Animal Agriculture Survey Summary

The Center for Food Security and Public Health surveyed a small focus group of Iowa youth currently or recently involved in animal agriculture exhibitions to meet the following objectives to help content developers:

- Gain insight on the most engaging teaching tool or techniques for youth,
- Understand class structure (i.e., PowerPoint, text book, etc.) and length,
- Be aware of previous training on zoonotic disease and biosecurity topics in the classroom or through youth agriculture organizations, and
- Understand requirements for showing (e.g., FSQA, PQA, health certificates, other training, etc.).

Eight current or recently graduated 4-H and FFA members were surveyed about their learning preferences and previous learning experiences. These youth, currently or previously involved in animal agricultural exhibitions, were questioned on the most engaging teaching techniques they have experienced, their current high school classroom structure, and their previous experience with online classes. They were also questioned about any previous training they had received regarding biosecurity and zoonotic disease prevention, and if any training of such type was required for exhibiting animals.

Students reported that the most engaging teaching techniques included hands-on activities, live or digital demonstrations, and PowerPoints. Typical high school courses were 45–90 minutes in length and were often taught by using PowerPoint presentations.

Generally, students appreciated online learning when they were able to work at their own pace and complete classes on their own time and even early. Students disliked online classes if the lecture material was too long and they were unable to ask questions. One respondent also noted that it was easy to procrastinate when not given a schedule for completion.

Based on these responses, we believe multiple highly interactive online modules requiring less than 20 minutes to complete would provide the best training material.

Of the eight respondents, six (75%), reported they had received some biosecurity training in an agriculture science class. Only half (4 of 8) reported they had received zoonotic disease training in an agriculture science class.

Requirements for showing animals varied by show; some students had been required to complete Food Safety Quality Assurance or Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) training. Some shows required animals to be accompanied by certificates of veterinary inspection.