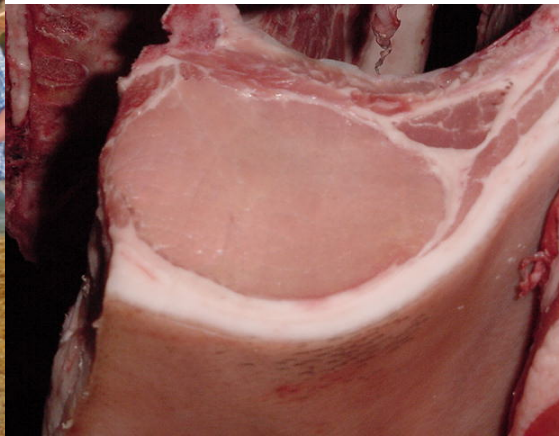
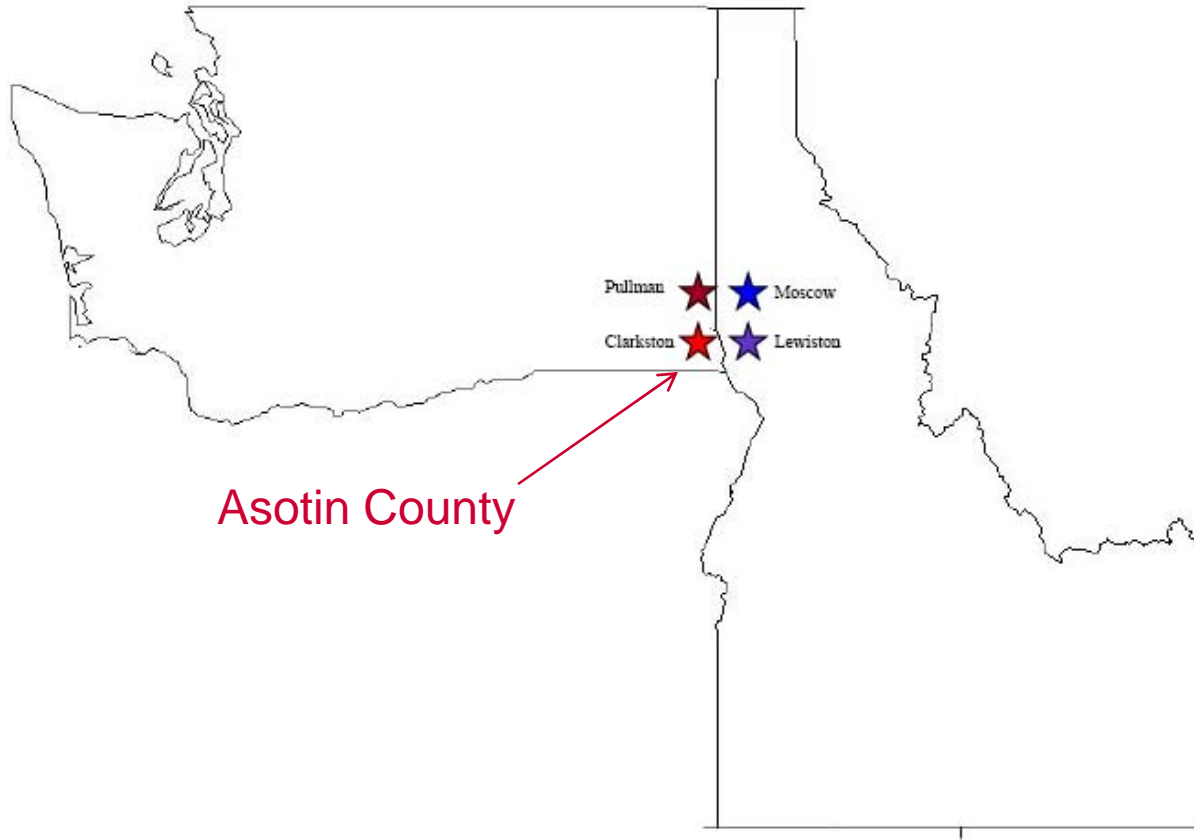


“Industry Standards for Youth Livestock Projects: Is 4-H Hitting the Target?”

Mark Heitstuman
Washington State University Extension
February 26, 2009



Personal Background



Personal Background

- **4-H, Livestock and Horticulture Extension Educator for Washington State University**
- **Have raised purebred cattle, market swine and sheep**
- **Coach of Washington State 4-H Livestock Judging Team several times**
- **Livestock Judge and former FFA Advisor**

Introductions

Where are you from?

**What is your Involvement in 4-H
Livestock Projects?**

**What you would like to learn or discuss
during this workshop?**

“The goal of 4-H youth livestock producers should be to raise a safe, wholesome, quality livestock project that meets or exceeds industry standards; and meets or exceeds the eating expectations of the consumer.”

**Randy Baldree, SE Dist. Director
Washington State University Ext.**

Youth livestock projects in Washington in 2004

Source: Sarah Smith, WSU Extension

- **Beef- 4990 steers that produced 3.1 million pounds of lean meat (12.5 million $\frac{1}{4}$ lb burgers)**
- **Swine- 8981 market hogs that produced 1.3 million pounds of pork (21 million sausage links)**

Youth livestock projects in Washington in 2004

Source: Sarah Smith, WSU Extension

- **Lamb- 7277 lambs that produced 430,000 pounds of meat (1.7 million lamb dinners)**
- **Goat- 5974 goats that produced 300,000 pounds of meat (1.2 million chevon dinners)**
- **Washington Youth producers responsible for 20.7 million servings of meat in 2004.**

Challenges facing youth livestock producers

- **May have terminal date for show- set date for fair**
- **Limited supply of animals to select from**
- **Lack of experience**
- **Lack of facilities**
- **High cost of inputs- feed, purchasing animal, etc.**



Why do businesses and individuals support 4-H and FFA projects?

They are supporting the youth and not necessarily the animal!!



Why are turn prices lower than the normal market price?

- Lack of uniformity
- Quality issues
- Greater chance of drug residues & other quality control issues
- Clipping of animals, shearing, etc.
- Higher death loss due to stress & mixing

