

Virginia Cattle Industry Board

Final Report

1/5/2022

Project Lead: Amy Byington / Eric Paulson

Organization: Virginia Cooperative Extension/ Virginia State Dairymen's Association

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Title: Virginia Women in Agriculture: Hands on Cattle Training (21-B4)

Project Type: Education Market Development Promotion Research Youth Development

Original Funding Amount: \$8,648.52

Remaining Balance: \$3,873.16

Objectives and Results:

2021 Cattle WISE (Women Increasing Skills and Education) was very successful and forty of the participants completed program evaluations. When asked if they would be using the skills they learned at the event on their own farm within the year, 92.5% said they would be using the low stress cattle handling skill, 85% said they would be using the BQA chute side skills, and 92.5% said they would be using the tractor skills. Increasing confidence was a main objective of the program. 90% of women said they increase in confidence on dystocia troubleshooting skills, 90% of women said they increase their confidence on low stress cattle handling, and 82.5% of women said they increase their confidence on breeding skills. One participant quote was "Truly enjoyed the day and feeling empowered to be more capable of assisting and doing by myself on farm."

Another participant quote was "Love the hands on. The instructors were so patient and encouraging with all levels of learners. Learned a lot. Thank you!"

Overall Benefit for Virginia Cattle Industry:

Forty-seven women participated in the program. The program had participants from 16 Virginia counties. Many women who participated in the program shared that they felt empowered and that they increased skills and confidence in using the skills. Increase the skills and confidence of women is directly beneficial to farms. Women are major contributors to the family farm and are often the key to convincing the family to make changes on the farming operations.

Activities Associated with Project:

Planning Meeting of Committee- Location, Date, and other details discussion. - April 5, 2021

Planning Meeting of Committee- Confirmation of details and creations of logo. - July 2, 2021

Planning Meeting of Committee- Final logo created. - July 20, 2021

Planning Meeting of Committee- Session planning, flyer created, and notebook draft. - August 10, 2021

Planning Meeting of Committee- Final details including hotels, travel, evaluation, and notebook. - October 19, 2021

Planning Meeting of Committee- Last minutes issues and details. - October 26, 2021

Follow-Up Meeting of Committee- Evaluation data and reflections. - November 17, 2021

Follow-Up Meeting of Committee- Grant final report and 2022 plans. - January 5, 2021

Lessons Learned:

We learned more time is needed for each session. Participants suggested a two-day event. The program needs limited to around 40 participants to ensure all participants have enough time to practice skills. We

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learned that the women did like having a woman only event. Many shared that it made them feel more comfortable trying and answering questions.

Future Work:

The committee would like to expand the event and offer a two-day training. One day will be focused on cattle skills such as BQA chute side, low stress cattle handling, dystocia, health, and reproduction. Second day will be focused on equipment including tractors, trailers, fencing equipment, and cattle handling equipment. We would like to offer this program again in the fall. Participants would be able to chose one day or both days.

Regions:

Please indicate what Virginia cattle production areas were impacted by this grant activity:

Select all that apply:

District I – Western South West

Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise

District II – Eastern South West

Bland, Carroll, Floyd, Giles, Grayson, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski, Wythe

District III – Southern Valley

Alleghany, Amherst, Augusta, Bath, Botetourt, Craig, Highland, Nelson, Roanoke, Rockbridge

District IV – Northern Valley

Clarke, Frederick, Page, Rockingham, Shenandoah, Warren

District V – Northern Piedmont

Accomack, Albemarle, Arlington, Caroline, Culpeper, Essex, Fairfax, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Gloucester, Goochland, Greene, King and Queen, King George, King William, Hanover, Henrico, Lancaster, Louisa, Loudoun, Madison, Matthews, Middlesex, New Kent, North Hampton, Northumberland, Orange, Prince William, Rappahannock, Richmond, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Westmoreland

District VI – Southern Piedmont

Amelia, Appomattox, Bedford, Brunswick, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Charles City, Chesapeake, Chesterfield, Cumberland, Dinwiddie, Franklin, Greensville, Hampton, Halifax, Isle of Wight, James City, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Newport News, Powhatan, Nottoway, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, Prince George, Suffolk, Sussex, Southampton, Surry, Virginia Beach, York

Final Budget and Justification:

Item Type	Original Awarded Amount	Final Amount Spent
Personnel	0	0
Fringe	0	0
Travel	2406.52	1151.93
Supplies & Materials	842	808.42
Contractual	2000	1100

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Other	2900	1215
Total	\$8,148.52	\$4,275.36

Virginia Beef Council provided \$500 towards printing costs of educational notebooks and \$934.50 for Beef Promotional items for participants such as Beef Its What's for Dinner tumblers. We charged \$20 to participants to ensure participants had a buy-in into the program. Funds received from fee charged were used to pay for door prizes, items not covered under the grant, and remainder funds are beheld for future programs. We were able to save funds due to change in location and ability to borrow livestock from the Virginia Department of Corrections. Also, the location was located close to a high number of presenters lowering the travel needed.

Credits: Virginia Cattle Industry Board was recognized as a sponsor on the flyer and article for the promotion of the program. Virginia Cattle Industry Board was also listed as a sponsor on the booklet provided to participants and was announced as a sponsor during the event.