

Virginia Cattle Industry Board

Final Report

12/16/2022

Grant: 22-7B

Project Lead: Amy Byington/ Eric Paulson

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

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Title: Virginia Women in Agriculture: Cattle WISE & Equipment WISE

Project Type: Education Market Development Promotion Research Youth Development

Original Funding Amount: \$12,267.63

Remaining Balance: \$4,873.77

Objectives and Results:

Cattle WISE (Women Increasing Skills and Education) and Equipment WISE was very successful this year. Due to the hands-on nature of the course, we limited the number of participants. For 2022, we had 26 ladies attended Equipment WISE and 29 attended Cattle WISE. Participants were asked to complete evaluations on both programs. When asked if they would be using any of the skills that they learned from the trailer backing up session, 66.7% said they would and 25% said they were currently already using these skills. When asked if their confidence had increased backing up trailers, 91.6% said their confidence had increased. Comments from Equipment WISE include "I am excited to show off to my dad!" and "I'll be promoting others to participate in future events." When participants were asked if they would be using any of the skills that they learned during chute side skills, 69.5% said they would be and 21.7 said they were already using the skills. When asked if their confidence level at increased with chute side skills, 86.9% said that their confidence had increased. When participants were asked if they would be using any of the skills that they learned during the low stress cattle handling session, 69.5% said they would be using the skills and 21.7% said they were currently already using the skills. When asked if their confidence increased, 86.9% said their confidence had increased with using low stress cattle handling techniques. Some comments from the Cattle WISE session include "I didn't know how to give vaccines and now I do!" and "As a new producer I have the opportunity to implement these skills and herd health strategies intentionally from the beginning."

Overall Benefit for Virginia Cattle Industry:

Women are major contributors to the family farm and are often the key to convincing the family to make changes on the farming operations. During the two days, there were 34 participants with many participating in both days. These participants came from 21 counties in Virginia. Through the WISE program, women gain hands-on skills and increase their confidence. The participants thanked instructor over and over throughout the day due to their patience and offering the program. Overall, Virginia Cattle Industry will be stronger with women increasing on-farm knowledge and skill.

Activities Associated with Project:

Planning Meeting of Committee- Grant Application- January 5, 2022

Planning Meeting of Committee- Grant Application- January 14, 2022

Planning Meeting of Committee- Location, Date, and other details discussion. – February 17, 2022

Planning Meeting of Committee- Award Applications- March 2, 2022

Planning Meeting of Committee- Confirmation of details and creations of logos - July 12, 2022

Planning Meeting of Committee- Schedule creation and flyer – August 17, 2022

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Planning Meeting of Committee- Session planning, agenda, and notebook draft. – September 7, 2022
 Planning Meeting of Committee- Final notebook, evaluation, swag, and other details- September 23, 2022
 Planning Meeting of Committee- Final details including hotels, travel, evaluation, and notebook. – October 5, 2022
 Planning Meeting of Committee- Last minutes issues and details- October 14, 2022
 Follow-Up Meeting of Committee- Evaluation data and reflections. – October 31, 2022

Lessons Learned:

We learned that we need to give the participants more time to network. We also need to offer a session on castration as part of the Cattle WISE. We also need to change some of the format of Equipment WISE to give more time for hands-on.

Future Work:

The 2023 program planning is already in the works. The goal is to offer another two-day training in the areas of cattle skills and equipment skills. We are considering letting the ladies pick and choose the topics they need work on and create schedules based on their needs. We are also considering offering a second level in the future.

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	[\$0.00]	[\$0.00]

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Fringe	[\$0.00]	[\$0.00]
Travel	\$5,675.63	\$3,943.37
Supplies & Materials	\$842.00	\$584.52
Contractual	\$5,000	\$1,915.97
Other	\$750.00	\$950.00
Total	\$12,267.63	\$7,393.86

The Southside Livestock Market, Blackstone, VA provided \$100 towards the program as a Sponsor. First Bank and Trust Company sponsored the program at \$250.00. We charged \$45 to participants for attending both days and \$25 for attending one day, 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 the reminder funds are beheld for future programs. Virginia Farm Bureau, Pasture Management Systems, Inc., Eastern Aberdeen Association, ARCB Gases, and Neogen provided items for both days SWAG bags and additional door prizes.

Credits: Virginia Cattle Industry Board was recognized as a sponsor on the flyer, articles for the promotion of the program, Facebook post, and website. 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.