

Educational Piece Abstract

A set of four market animal success guides were developed to give 4-H families raising market animals a quick and accurate reference guide for their project from start to finish. Hood River 4-H families and leaders expressed a need for condensed accurate information about raising market animals as they often feel overwhelmed when reading through books. The set of four guides include:

- The Market Hog Guide to Success
- The Market Steer Guide to Success
- The Market Goat Guide to Success
- The Market Lamb Guide to Success

Each guide starts with what you need to consider when selecting a market animal in terms of age and quality. The guide then moves into the importance of meat quality assurance and using humane practices. Next the guide walks through the feeding process including what to feed, transitioning feeds, determining how much to feed and water and minerals. Finally the guide introduces the reader to preparing the animal for show including preparing at home, exercise, clipping, show day preparation and showmanship tips. Each guide is eight pages from cover to cover with illustration throughout for a quick and easy read.

Published 4-H curriculum, along with livestock nutrition books were referenced in order to ensure accurate and credible information. The guides were also reviewed by a faculty member located in the Animal Science Department at Oregon State University and peer reviewed by colleagues.

Each guide is printed at a cost of 15 cents on a black and white copier. The Hood River County OSU Extension Service covers this cost in their annual budget. Within Hood River County the following guides have been distributed to 4-H members, potential members and individuals interested in learning the basics about showing market animals:

- The Market Hog Guide to Success 100
- The Market Steer Guide to Success 20
- The Market Goat Guide to Success 120
- The Market Lamb Guide to Success 50