

Meat the Future

Jenilee Godsey, Youth Agriculture

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“Lessons Learned”

My, oh my, what a year has 2020 been? School cancellations, sports being delayed and cancelled, churches and restaurants running less than normal, county fairs and 4-H events being altered each and every day... face-to-face life in general was basically shut down for a period of time for many people.

Here is an article I would like to share with you written by fellow K-State Research and Extension Agent, Michelle Beran, from the Midway Extension District. With county fairs all over starting up, I felt this was the perfect article to help us reflect on the reason 4-H is one of the greatest opportunities for our youth to learn those precious life lessons.

The Past is where you learned.

The Future is where you apply the lessons.

Don't give up in the middle! – Author Unknown

A basic tenet of 4-H is experiential learning – learning by doing!

The learning in 4-H goes far beyond understanding how to measure a cup of flour or wash a calf. The ability to present in front of others, seeing a project through to the end and assembling a set of records are the true lessons of 4-H.

While in Denver in mid-January for the National Western Stock Show, I was consistently impressed when meeting 4-H and FFA students by their polite and friendly manner and appropriate attire. It was great to see them “dressed for success” as they left the hotel to attend their banquets and award presentations. Each lesson they learn through their successful and less-than-successful moments will carry through to their continued education and job prospects. It truly warmed my heart to have a young lady that I have worked with over the last few years share that she was complimented, during an interview, for her posture while sitting and how much she appreciated the reinforcement of this practice.

As a life-long learner, I am always evaluating how an event played out – was it successful? What could be done differently? What do I know now that I didn't know when planning?

I came into the role of 4-H Youth Development agent with an unusual background having spent 20 years in consumer banking and 4 in health insurance. While many things in both roles helped to prepare me as a 4-H Youth Development agent (making presentations, marketing and communication, customer service while abiding by policies and procedures), my experience as a 4-H member, 4-H parent, Extension Board and PDC member have also shaped my background. Each county/district does things a little differently but works within

the same framework of policies and procedures. Learning those differences is a challenge and I continue to learn as I go!

There is always someone willing to be critical of your work – some requested and some not. However, I have learned to take the good from any criticism and let go of the unrealistic or unreasonable. That doesn't make it easy to hear but is an important skill for every age!

Good judgement comes from experience. Experience is often a result of bad judgement.

Don't give up in the middle!

This is an article written by Michelle Beran with Kansas State University Research and Extension in the Midway District.

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