Usefulness of Study/Contribution to Profession

As noted by the authors of this research, exhibition of livestock has been a popular facet of the Supervised Agricultural Experience program and 4-H projects for many years. Most will recall that even the discussions that initiated the Future Farmers of America were held at a national livestock show. However, as the authors noticed, various elements have called question to the overall concept; "The Purchase of 'club' animals at inflated prices in an attempt to buy the champion coupled with inflated auction prices for a select few leave many with a distorted view of the economics of raising livestock." As formal and non-formal agricultural education changes to meet today's needs, the importance of evaluating programs in change is critical, and to this end the authors should be commended for recognizing such a timely concern.

Procedural Questions & Concerns

A brief review of recent literature addressed the need for the research at hand. However, a reflection of theory would have strengthened this descriptive study. Perhaps, a review of motivation theory will add to future revisions or other studies. Additionally, some clarification and specificity of the 'objectives' and 'questions' might help in the event of future replication.

The brevity of the instrument seemed to be appropriate for the age range of the subjects, but a more careful description of the survey and use of any follow-up methods would allow readers a greater chance to reflect on the findings.

A wealth of conclusions/implications discussed the mechanics of the actual achievement program. Possibly, more time can be spent discussing the implications of students' concerns toward more points and money and less importance upon the need for more educational seminars. How can youth in these events reflect on the educational value of the entire program?

Thoughts for Future Research in this Area

Hinging upon the findings of this study, a qualitative study of participants in the achievement program might yield a greater understanding of results from this study.

In the future, more in-depth study of the achievement program that evaluates student 'learning' would contribute to the perceptions baseline of this study. Another consideration would be to assess the learning involved in the individual components of the achievement program.