

## Usefulness of Study/Contribution to Profession

As discussed by the authors of this research, agricultural education programs in Texas have a long history involving the use of livestock show programs for student SAEs. Considering the extensive use of this program, it is a wise decision of the researchers to consider such a valid issue. The authors of this research are to be commended in establishing a quality assessment that stems from a well-developed review of the literature. Texas and similar states should benefit from these findings when preparing pre-service and in-service programs for beginning teachers.

## Procedural Questions & Concerns

Following a well-written purpose and objectives, the researchers provided a sound description of their methods used in the study. However, a few questions arise when considering the possibility of replicating the study. A sample of 145 beginning teachers was used. What basis was used to determine this number? The conclusions refer to the study to represent the population, if so, what measures were taken in this study to assume the non-respondents were the same as those responding to the survey? Although a T-test may have been used to determine significant differences between early and late respondents, no mention was made of this. What measures were taken to test the reliability of this newly-developed instrument?

The questions used in the study yielded some valuable baseline information regarding the showing of livestock. However, additional questions with Likert-scale responses would have provided more detail for technical pre-service and in-service delivery. The authors noted in the purpose of the study that it was "imperative that teachers in Texas stay current with research and new and improved methods of instruction," yet few questions seemed to actually measure teacher knowledge of research-related issues and new instruction methods.

## Thoughts for Future Research in this Area

The authors of this research may consider conducting a follow-up study of teachers' SAE livestock skills subsequent to in-service delivery. Efficacy of various in-service delivery methods used to meet the needs discussed in this study may also benefit the profession.

Some teachers in the study indicated issues with parents in livestock-related SAEs. This presents an interesting area of research when considering pre-service and in-service interpersonal skills development, which might warrant future research.