Evaluation Of An Educational Program To Address
Excessive Adult Involvement In Youth Livestock Projects: A Critique

Carl L. Reynolds
University of Wyoming

There is no question that the issue of excessive adult involvement in youth livestock projects is in dire need of research. This study is a most timely response to that need. Competition, the need to “win”, and the dollar value of grand champion sales have driven adult involvement to high levels in recent years.

This issue is most complex as addressed by these researchers. It was most appropriate that the researchers presented a dichotomy in their theoretical abstract. Excessive parental involvement in competitive sporting events is “appalling” while at the same time, it was reported that parent involvement is directly related to improved student achievement.

The approach used in the study was most intriguing to survey the audience after the “clipmaster/pull the plug” events. The scenario presented a meaningful experience to provoke thought about one’s beliefs about the problem of adult involvement in livestock shows.

The rationale applied to rounding down participant’s responses to lower whole numbers is a most interesting approach that could lead to debate. If, for example, I marked a response 2.75, the argument that my opinion was closer to the “3” level than a “2” appears to be just as logical as the argument presented for rounding the 2.75 to a “2”. However, I consider this issue to be a small one in light of the overall study and the significant contribution it makes. Overall, it was one of the most interesting studies I have had the pleasure to review.