



Activity #5

Yes, No, It Depends: Making Tough Decisions

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GPP(s): 1-10

Group Size: 5-50

Length of Activity: 15-20 min

Background:

Youth are faced with a variety of situations where tough decisions have to be made. The purpose of a livestock project is to teach young people how to feed, fit and show their animals. However, the more important purpose of this program is to provide an opportunity for personal growth and development. In the area of Meat Quality Assurance, youth producers are faced with multiple decisions that require ethical judgment calls between what is “right” and “wrong”.

Objectives:

- Provide an opportunity for youth to explore and examine different situations to try to understand the concept of “right” and “wrong” in regards to their livestock project.
- Give the opportunity for youth members to examine their own decision making skills.

Materials and Supplies:

- Signs, each with the word “Yes”, “No”, or “It Depends” on them. Each student should get one of each.
- Sample situation sheet (one to read from)

Activity Description:

Preparation:

- Prepare the Decision Signs (each sign should be on a different color poster. Example all “Yes” signs should be on blue poster etc.)
- Prepare the sample situations for youth to evaluate. A few samples are included with this activity.

Activity:

- Distribute the Decision Signs to each of the members. Each member should get one “Yes”, “No” and “It Depends” signs.
- Explain that you will read situations to them aloud and after you complete the situation you will ask what they think is the appropriate answer.

- The “Yes” sign indicates the situation is a good thing, “No” indicates it is a bad thing, and “It Depends” indicates that they are not sure and they require more information to make a decision.
- Follow up each situation with a discussion about why the situation was right/wrong or why more information was needed.

Decision Situation Examples:

Example: You see someone giving an injection to their sheep in the show barn you are in.

Answer would probably be “It Depends”

- More information is needed to determine the situation. The person administering the injection could have been a veterinarian. Not enough is known to determine right or wrong at this time.

Example: While showing, the person in front of you can’t get their heifer to go forward. You help them out by nudging their heifer to move along.

Answer would probably be “Yes”.

- Helping out a fellow member shows good sportsmanship skills.

Example: An exhibitor near you is giving their hog antibiotics to treat an infection

Answer- It Depends- More information is needed

- Will the animal meet the exhibition regulations considering the withdraw period for that antibiotic?
- Perhaps the exhibitor already withdrew from the exhibition. There is not enough known about the situation to make a judgment call.

Using these examples as a guide create some more situations that could be considered right, wrong or in between. Feel free to use real life examples you have encountered.

Example: You see your friend removing water from their Holstein heifer so it makes weight for the fair weigh-in

Answer- No!

- The heifer should have plenty of fresh clean water!