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Green County Extension Office

March 25, 2005

TO: Southern District Resource Management Team Members

FROM: Alissa Grenawalt
4-H & Youth Development Agent
UWEX Green County

RE: Southern District Resource Management \$\$\$ Request

Proposal Request: This request would ask for funds to help counties in the Southern District put together their own Meat Animal Quality Assurance (MAQA) Kits for program use. This program has been implemented to replace the PQA or Pork Quality Assurance program that is set forth by the National Pork Board. This program is a youth quality assurance program designed to teach youth the proper methods of caring for their meat animal projects in an ethical, humane manner. This program is **REQUIRED** for all swine youth and in some counties also sheep and beef project members. Currently counties are responsible for purchasing materials to help facilitate the program and/or securing a kit that has been put in the COOP Extension Media Library for use; however there are only 1 kit available for use at any one time.

Purpose: The Meat Animal Quality Assurance Program covers many areas of quality assurance practices and methods in the livestock arena. The program covers the Good Production Practices put forth by the National Pork Board. The activities and exercises that are performed to certify these youth require getting a number of resource materials to help perform the program successfully. Providing financial assistance to help counties put together items that best fit their local situation could truly assist in providing the best educational experience possible given the purpose of the program.

Proposed Cost: Since the materials needed would change on a 3-year rotating basis, it was suggested by the Helping Youth Understand Agriculture Issues work team that approximately **\$7500** dollars be earmarked for the 14 counties in the southern district. Ideally, it would be beneficial to have each county have their own kit. However, from a financial and efficiency standpoint it would be very costly for each county to have these materials. Therefore, this proposal is suggesting that from the 14 counties in the Southern District, 7 kits be made for two counties to share between them to help facilitate the MAQA program.

7 kits x 2 counties= 14 counties. These kits would include program materials from MAQA years 1, 2, 3. This means a total of 21 kits would be made at approximately \$350 per kit = \$7500.

Proposed method of sharing kits between 2 counties in the Southern District:

County Pairs for MAQA Kits:

1. Grant and Crawford
2. Vernon and Richland
3. Iowa and Sauk
4. Lafayette and Green
5. Rock and Walworth
6. Columbia and Dane
7. Jefferson and Dodge

Proposal Impact: This is a program where all swine project youth in 4-H and FFA grades 8-18 must participate in to become certified to show or sell livestock at many county and state fairs. This program impacts approximately 2500 swine youth alone statewide. There are also many counties who piloted this program before it was officially marketed that felt it was very worthwhile and taught youth the proper tools of raising a quality meat product intended for human consumption.

Measuring Impact: Currently in place, the State Youth Livestock Specialist has data to support the need for this program and has assessed counties who used the program in 2004 to give feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of putting together a successful program at the county level. Obviously, this practice would continue so impact could be measured on a yearly basis. This opportunity would also fit into the goals of the Helping Youth Understand Agriculture Issues work team in its programmatic goals for the current program process term.

- 42 counties so far reporting
 - 1310 swine
 - 146 sheep
 - 215 cattle
- 11 counties offered testing out
 - Intermediate - 119
 - Advanced - 169

If you have any other questions in addition to the proposal written, please feel free to contact Alissa Grenawalt, 4-H & Youth Development Agent at (608) 328-9440 or email alissa.grenawalt@ces.uwex.edu.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

cc: mm, bo,