Circle of Life

**Program Area:** Education and Ag Promotion (EAP)

**County Farm Bureau:** Ingham County Farm Bureau

**State:** MI

**Membership Category:** 3,001-5,000

**Year:** 2013

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**Program Description:** The "Circle of Life" was an exhibit featured at the county fair that showcased animals giving birth or young animals. In addition to this main attraction, the exhibit also had demonstrations on animal health, agriculture, yarn making, coloring, butter making and mini lessons on the water cycle, farming and earth cycle. The purpose of this event was to provide the public with correct information about agriculture. One way in which they accomplished this was making consumers more aware of where their food comes from. For instance, they provided the plant of a crop, such as corn and then showed how it can result in cornmeal.

First, members needed to get the animals arranged for the display. If there weren't any animals giving birth during the fair week they had young animals present. They collected items that were donated to promote the agriculture industry such as informational sheets, coloring books for kids, pencils, stickers and other items that promoted different commodities. Local farmers worked different shifts so they could tend to the animals as well as answer questions. Food products made from the crops were put on display for people to see, and kits were filled with mini lessons and materials needed for butter making. When it was time for the fair, pens were set up for the animals and tables were put out for the displays.

Each day there were materials for the lesson of the day, the pens needed cleaned and animals fed. Once volunteers arrived, they were assigned a lesson and given handout information. Owners of the animals checked in periodically and assisted in the birth process when the animals were ready.