Beginning of Life Exhibit

Program Area: Education and Ag Promotion (EAP)
County Farm Bureau: Livingston County Farm Bureau
State: MI
Membership Category: 5,001+
Year: 2013
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Program Description: This event was organized in order to educate the general public about animal welfare by showing proper care and nutrition in a barn setting. Mother animals and their young were on display as well as incubators with hatching chicks and a display on animal feeds and nutrition organized by local 4-H clubs. Fiber education was showcased with a demonstration featuring spinning wheels and looms.

There was a plywood cow to milk; grains and feedstuff to touch, see and smell; a birthing video to watch, which showed live births by cows, sheep and pigs; looms that children used to weave bits of cloth; and farm animals to touch. Volunteers manned the exhibit to answer questions and to help the general public realize that there is more to food and clothing than just buying it in a store.

Two days before the fair began, volunteers met to set up the animal pens in the barn and to put the educational posters up on the barn walls. They borrowed large square straw bales to put around the perimeter of the exhibit. Animals were brought in the day before the fair (all animals go through a vet check before they are allowed in the exhibit). Volunteers were scheduled for 3-hour shifts and the exhibit was open Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. A number of items were donated or borrowed to cut down on cost. The fair donated the use of tables, bleachers and covered the cost of the large tent used for the nutritional exhibit.

It took a lot of cooperation from an awesome group of volunteers!