

# Fair Auction Night big one for 4-H and FFA

Everyone knows that the big night for 4-H and FFA livestock exhibitors at county fair is Auction Night, when the market animals are brought out for auction.

Beef, sheep, and swine, each carefully groomed and fattened, are ready for market.

There's always a good sized crowd around the sale ring, and bidding is usually brisk. Champions sell first; then

the reserves. These set the ceiling for the rest of the animals that follow, so excitement is great as they start the bidding.

Those who have not had a "behind the scenes" look at all the leads to a market animal sale might wonder at the prices, or the excitement.

Many hours of work have gone into preparation for this night. There are hours of labor,

training, and decisions by members, not to mention the initial investment in the animal.

There are many more hours of preparation for the sale by the committee from the Livestock Growers Association, sponsors of the sale. Add to

that the time of extension staff in registering, preparing sales slips, weighing animals and other assorted details plus the

time spent by devoted volunteer 4-H leaders and parents helping and guiding the mem-

bers, as well as hours at county fair serving as superintendents of the animal divisions, and you have quite a bit of work.

The auctioneer donates his time as do the helpers in the ring who are there to be sure to catch every bid. Volunteers from First National Bank

clerk the sale, recording each sale and paying the sellers right after the sale.

Morrow County is unique on this detail....some places the kids have to wait for their money.

The time of parents involved is so great that it cannot be calculated. Most spend almost a week with fair activities in addition to the support and encouragement they have provided all year. Taking kids to 4-H meetings takes time, and it's costly today to travel distances to club meetings.

How do you put a price on the learning experiences of a youth involved in a 4-H market animal project?

In the process of preparing the animal for the show and sale, the 4-H or FFA member has had many experiences worth more than dollar value. They have made decisions on ration, feeding and care schedules that effect their final product. They have learned the inside story on the cost of producing an animal for market, the responsibility of caring for an animal, and also how to manage their time. They have learned the good old American work ethic, a valuable lesson in the world today. Now at the county fair they have the opportunity to show the success of their project, the animal, and to show themselves. It is a time to receive recognition for their work.

You'll see Bob Van Schojack, president of Livestock Growers, and all the members he can round up, out there helping with the sale.

Some faithful livestockmen that show up every year are Ron Currin, Tom Currin, Merlin Hughes, Charlie Daly... just to name a few.

They want the kids to get a good price for their animals, for as livestock growers they are painfully aware of the high cost of producing a premium animal today. The margin between profit and loss is small.

When you come out to the 4-H and FFA Livestock Auction Wednesday, August 20, come with an appreciation of the combined efforts of many that has gone in to each animal that comes up for sale, whether it wears the champion ribbon, or not.

When you make your bid, you aren't buying a beef, sheep, or hog...you are investing in the future of some boy or girl. That is what it is all about.

### Jones thanks

Delpha Jones, chairman, and members of the 1980 Morrow County Fair Committee would like to extend special thanks to all of the organizations, businesses and individuals who gave so much of their time and to those who sponsored awards for the Morrow Morrow County Fair. "Without such generosity, we could not function as a fair."

## Fill Your Freezer... Support Our 4-H and FFA Youth!

**Prize-Winning Beef,  
Sheep and Swine  
Raised By Our  
Community Youth!**



## MARKET STOCK LIVESTOCK AUCTION

### WEDNESDAY, AUG. 20

### 8:00 P.M.

Covered Show Ring-Fairgrounds

THE  
SUDDEN  
SERVICE  
BOYS

# Tires LES SCHWAB

441 N. Main Heppner

676-9463 676-9481