



## 4-H Livestock Club Completes Junior BQA Program

*By Ron Kuck, Dairy and Livestock Educator*

The Jefferson County 4-H Livestock Club, with 4-H Club Leader Michelle Stephens, completed the **Junior Cattle Care and Quality Assurance Program** in March 2017.

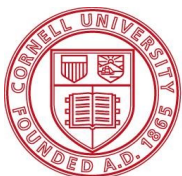
The Junior Cattle Care and Quality Assurance Program was developed by the New York Beef Industry Council for youth who are involved in beef production, both dairy and beef project members. The program covers many of the same issues and management practices as the adult Beef Quality Assurance program, but is geared for youth.

The Junior Training combines classroom and hands-on activities for youth to have fun while learning the BQA practices and issues that will serve them well for a lifetime of cattle production.

The classroom sessions included Basic Care of Cattle; Animal Health & Proper Use of Animal Health products; Carcass Quality; and Food Safety. These two-night sessions were facilitated by Ron Kuck, Dairy / Livestock Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County and Northern New York Regional Ag Team. Hosted by Ruddman Farms, Emily and Greg Rudd, the hands on activities gave the 4-H'ers an opportunity to practice giving injections and demonstrate cattle behavior & handling. Dr. Mike Baker, Cornell University Beef Extension Specialist led the workshop.

The Junior Cattle Health and Quality Assurance Program is supported by the New York Beef Industry Council, Cornell University and the New York Beef Producers' Association.

Regardless of the age of the producer, caring for cattle and producing a quality product go hand in hand. Using BQA management practices to handle cattle and keep them healthy also improves carcass quality and safety. Learning and implementing these BQA practices that allow cattle to reproduce and grow are the cornerstones of the cattle quality assurance program.



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