



Cultivating Confidence: Addressing Content Knowledge Gaps Through Experiential

Katharine Honeyman, Morgan Sweeney, Lexis D. Trickett, Shane Wetzel, and Jon W. Ramsey

Introduction

- Agricultural educators need **broad, integrated content knowledge** (Harlin et al., 2007)
- **Gaps** reported in **content and application** (Rice & Kitchel, 2016b)
- **Main challenge:** developing pedagogical content knowledge (Rice & Kitchel, 2016b)
- **Hands-on, integrated preparation** improves teaching effectiveness (Hashweh, 2005; Rice & Kitchel, 2015)
- Oklahoma State University requires hands-on lessons in teacher preparation

How It Works

- **OSU Collegiate FFA:** open to students interested in agriculture, often future SBAE teachers
- Focuses on **leadership, social, and professional development**
- **October 2025:** CFFA hosted a hands-on livestock showmanship and fitting workshop
- **Rotated through 4 stations** with show-ready animals and student experts.
- **Provided practical skills and content** relevant to future agricultural educators

The Numbers

- **36 Students**
- **4 stations with 3 livestock species**
- **100% reported increased confidence and livestock skills**

Why It Matters

Hand-on livestock experiences build both content knowledge and instructional confidence in future SBAE teachers.

Results

- **36 students** participated in the October 2025 workshop
- Built **livestock skills** and **teaching confidence**.
- Participants reported increased confidence across all species
- **Beginner-friendly, multi-station design** supported all skill levels
- Highlights **applied learning** in teacher preparation

Future Plans

- Feedback supported hosting **future livestock handling** events
- Students requested **more time per species** and longer rotations
- Interest was expressed in **single-species-focused** workshops
- Must consider scheduling, animal availability, and logistics
- **Key needs:** : animals, space, experts, and cleanup resources

Cost/Resources Needed

- Access to **well-trained, show-ready animals**
- **Knowledgeable presenters** to lead stations
- Suitable facility for hosting the event
- Graduate students or faculty to assist with coordination
- Approximately **\$200** spent on meals

