



Opinion



File photo

A 4-H senior shares a moment with her steer during a recent county fair on the Treasure Coast.

MAN & NATURE

County fair will be better off for not having livestock shows

I was thrilled to read that 4-H livestock shows may soon be absent from county fairs. Perhaps then my family and I may enjoy the fairs without being overwhelmed by the sadness livestock shows represent.

The 4-H program teaches our children awful lessons. It teaches that animals are mere units of production, and maximizing their economic value is the primary concern. 4-H children raise the animals with love, but they're then taught to abandon that natural attachment to animals by presenting them like slaves for auction.

The program plays a major role in breaking down the natural affinity between children and animals, and brainwashing the kids to see their animal friends' as commodities to be bought and sold.

I have witnessed quite a few children crying at 4-H livestock fairs, while an adult explains to them that "this is what we do with animals." This borders on child abuse.

The compassion children have for animals should be nurtured, not smothered. When this child grows up to run a puppy mill or engage in dog fights, remember where he learned that animals are here merely to make us money.

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