



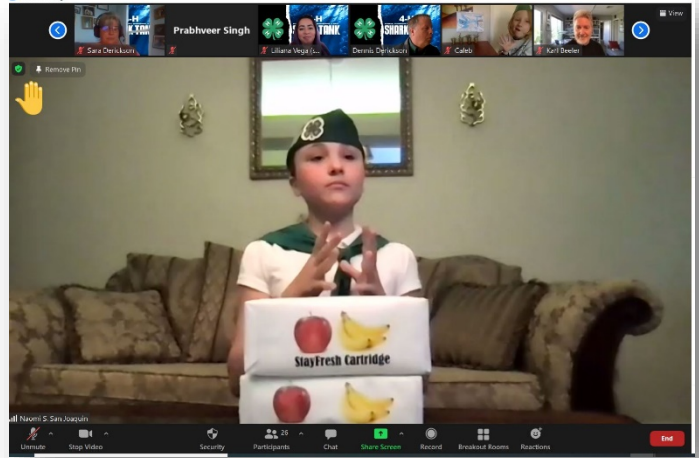
## 2021 State 4-H Field Day Evaluation Report

Steven M. Worker, Yu Meng, Nicole Marshall-Wheeler, and Roshan Kumar Nayak  
Revised June 17, 2021

The [State 4-H Field Day](#) is the largest and most comprehensive educational event offered by UC 4-H. Since 2002, the event provides culminating experience for 4-H members (aged 9 to 19) in their year-long 4-H educational experiences.

In May 2020 and 2021, the event was implemented virtually with contests focusing on public speaking, interview skills, photography skills, robotics and coding, film production, and plant science.

In both years, nearly 500 youth participated in one or more contests. We gathered data with a post-event survey in 2020 (n=183) and 2021 (n=151).



### Percentage Satisfied 2020 (n=178) Percentage Satisfied 2021 (n=150)



4% Disagreed; 7% Neither

**92%** want to attend again (2% do not; 6% neutral)

**94%** will recommend to others (1% will not; 6% neutral)



8% Disagreed; 3% Neither

**93%** want to attend again (3% do not; 4% neutral)

**91%** will recommend to others (3% will not; 7% neutral)

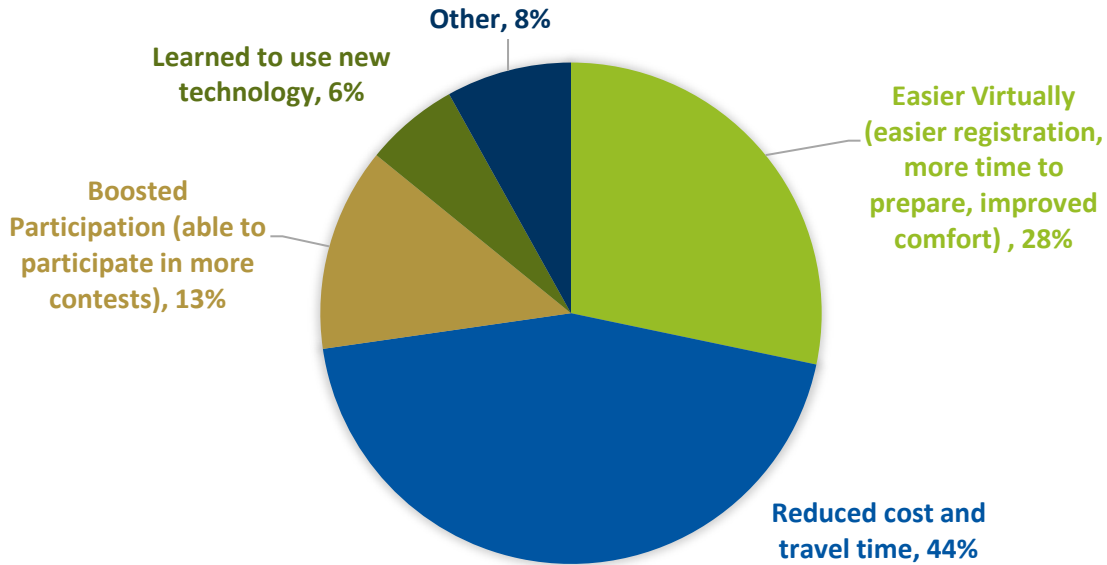
*“One of my sparks is public speaking. My motivation for attending the State Field Day is that I greatly enjoy public speaking and participating brings me lots of joy.”*

*“I like in-person State Field Day because there really are few things more exciting than seeing a sea of GREEN on the big field (at UC Davis) and knowing you share a common bond with these people. ... the biggest challenge is determining which events are best kept in-person and which will thrive staying virtual.”*

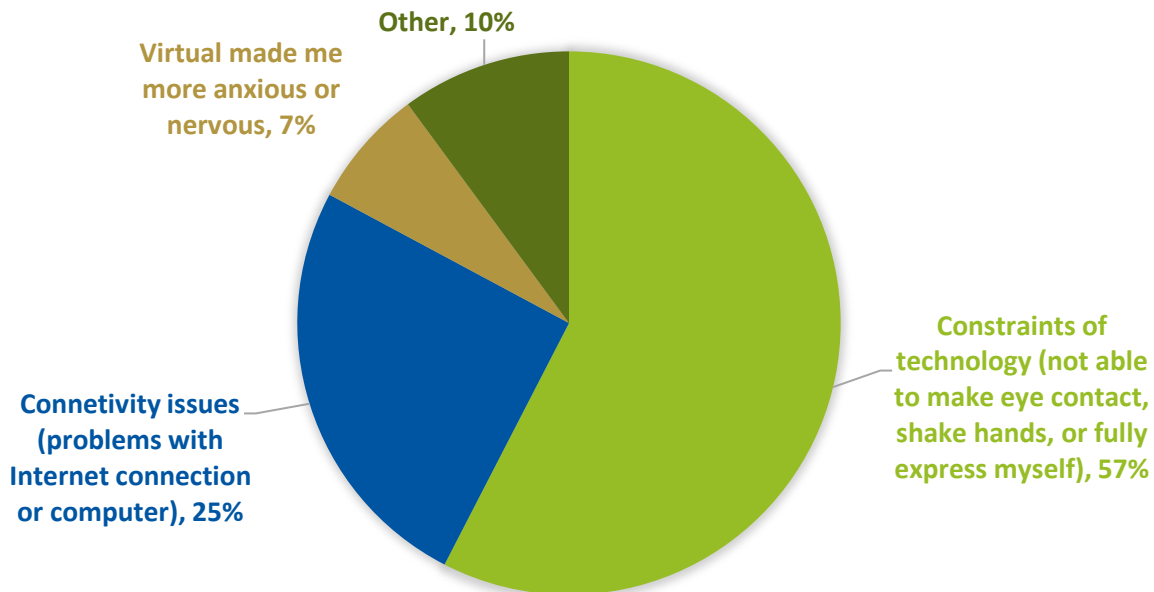
## Virtual Experience

We invited youth to share the advantages and disadvantages they experienced with a **virtual** event. In 2020, we qualitatively analyzed 308 response and identified eight themes (n=159). In 2021, we asked participants to rank the themes (n=150).

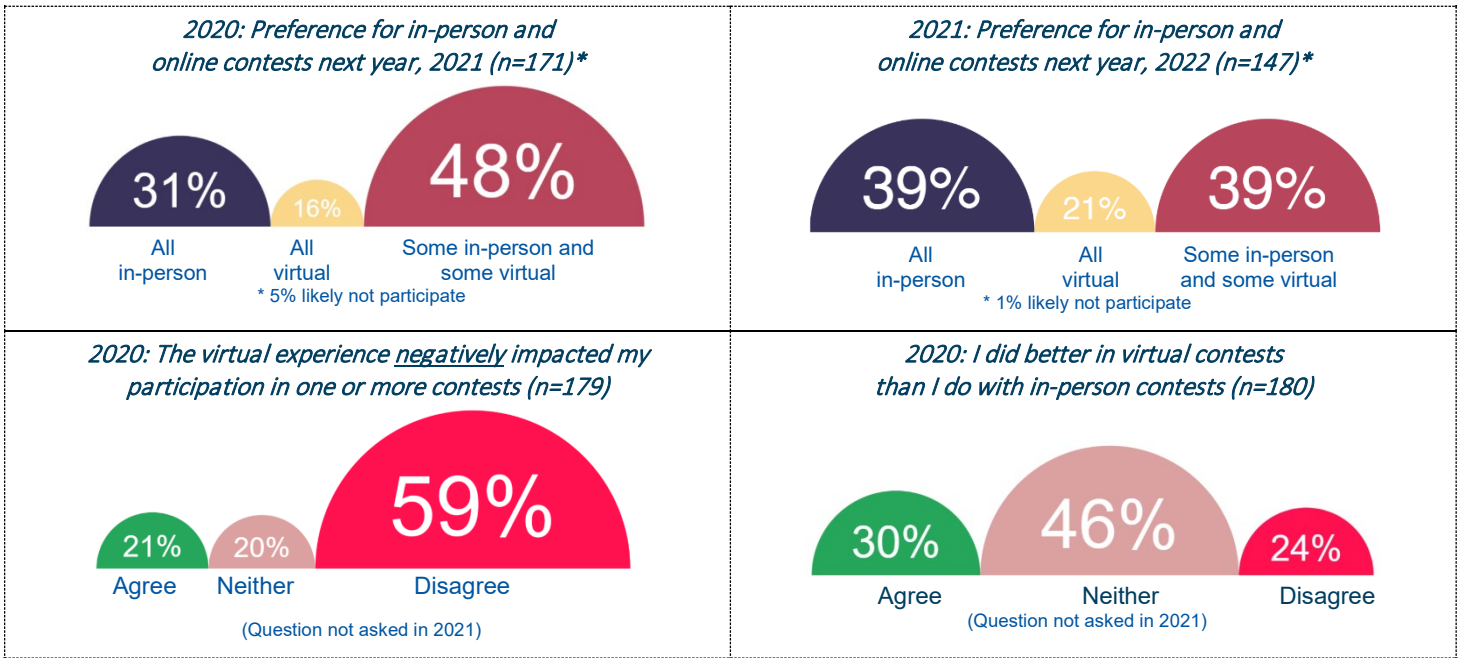
### Benefits and Advantages Ranked First



### Drawbacks and Disadvantages Ranked First



## Virtual Delivery



*I thought it was very well done and professional. Even though the kids didn't get to participate in person, I felt the evaluators made them feel comfortable. ... My daughter is very excited to participate next year and would like to participate in person.*

### Recommendations for State 4-H Field Day

Future State 4-H Field Days should offer **contests both in-person and virtually**, given that youth reported many benefits, including boosted participation, improved comfort, and reduced expenses. However, many responded that they prefer in-person, connecting, and “meeting families from all over the state and then returning the following year, hearing their stories and watching them grow in size, maturity, experience, and skills.”

*“We go to state field day every year as a family and look forward to the fair-like atmosphere. Virtual is convenient but is missing the in-person connection with other members. 4-H field day isn't just about presenting, it's about the connection to the organization and the networking and being on a University campus. It's about having to manage your own equipment and seeing the actual plant on a paper plate. It's about walking in a fashion show. I appreciate that we were able to shift to online, but I really hope we don't do this regularly.”*

