



Presenting . . . The Alberta 4-H Provincial Communications' Competition

Lakeland College, Vermilion – On April 4, 2009, the success of Alberta 4-H's communications' program was exemplified by 43 senior-aged 4-H members, who were in Vermilion to talk, present and compete at the 33rd Annual Provincial Public Speaking competition, and the 7th Annual Provincial Presentations competition, both of which happen under the umbrella competition of "Provincial Communications".

In 2003, Presentations joined public speaking at a provincial level, and each time, the members continue to impress and educate judges and audience members, who this year, were versed in everything from First-Aid to mummification to worms. *"Speaking in front of any audience is a challenge, but speaking to peers and family may very well be the hardest task of all, and yet, these members made it look all too easy,"* Cameron Horner, Alberta 4-H Communications and Marketing Specialist and organizer of Provincial Communications, said of the members' aptitude for presenting.

For Megan Wolfinger, Presentations' Judge and Communications Advisor with AltaLink, it wasn't just the confidence and the ease that members delivered their presentations with, it was also the content that they opted to serve up. *"I was extremely impressed at the quality of the presentations I was judging, and the range of topics that the members chose to tackle. 4-H has worked to develop some amazing young speakers and is clearly an outstanding organization."*

After nearly three hours of competition, being that delegates are asked at least three questions in relation to their chosen topic, the 2009 top three were announced: Karli Keujer, who is a member of the Lethbridge Coaldale 4-H Beef Club, did a presentation on "Colitis", which placed her in a tie for third place with Michael Lawrence of Moutainview 4-H Dairy Club, whose session topic was titled, "TB or not TB". Second place was earned by New Pine Equine and Multi 4-H Club member Samantha Pedersen, who presented a "Wormy Affair". Jenalee Blackhurst, member of the Bits and Spurs Equine Youth 4-H Club and the Gilby 4-H Beef Club, was awarded first place, for her entertaining "Daily Dairy" presentation.



Alberta 4-H Presentations Champions (l to r) - Jenalee Blackhurst and Samantha Pedersen



“Actually, I set out to win at provincial communications shortly after joining the 4-H program seven years ago, just because I thought that way, I’d never have to do it again,” remembered a laughing Jenalee. “But now that it’s been something that I’ve been working on for such a long time, I really just want to keep practicing and continuing to improve my presentation and public speaking skills.”

For Jenalee, much like all 4-H members who have worked hard at advancing within 4-H’s communication program, these skills are already being put to good use. *“I’ve been approached by Key Leaders who want me to put on Presentations’ workshops for the junior members in their clubs. Being asked to do this means a lot to me because it affirms what 4-H is all about: people helping people.”*



The Alberta 4-H Provincial Communications competition is title sponsored by AltaLink, and is co-sponsored by Agrium and the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede.