

# 4-H Communications Event Goes Rural

It is said speaking in front of an audience is among most people's worst fears but that was not the case for 33 senior-aged 4-H members who arrived in Lethbridge on April 10 to talk, present and compete at the 2010 Annual Provincial Communications competition.

The communications competition is comprised of two separate events – Public Speaking and Presentations. In the Public Speaking event, 14 individuals, representing Alberta 4-H's seven regions, delivered prepared speeches on the assigned theme of Rural Roots/Routes. In an alternating manner, with prepared speeches alternating with impromptu topics ranging from criminal record checks to Alberta's livestock industry, members showed off their world-class speaking skills that wowed the audience at every turn.

After the total of 28 speeches, the judge's pencils came to a rest and the top three competitors were announced: Julia Ramos-Strankman, member of Altario 4-H Beef Club, was awarded third place; Amy MacTaggart of the Central Lacombe 4-H Beef Club took second; and, top honours went to Erin Shaw, a seven-year member of the Bon Accord 4-H Club.

In addition to being named public speaking champion, Shaw was also awarded the Grant A. Fletcher Memorial Award, which is given to the event's top speaker. Shaw will go on to compete at the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture (CYSA) National Public Speaking Competition, which takes place in November in conjunction with Toronto's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.



2010 Public Speaking Champion: Erin Shaw, Bon Accord 4-H Club



2010 Public Speaking competitors

With topics ranging from candle making to saddle selection to crime scene investigation, 13 Presentations teams, comprised of 19 competitors, illustrated, demonstrated and presented their year's hard work to a full-house audience and a trio of observing judges.

Once the final PowerPoint presentation dimmed the top three teams were announced: Matthew Paton of the Bits & Spurs Equine Youth 4-H Club along with the team of Clara and Danielle Philibert of the Freedom-Naples 4-H Multi Club tied were declared co-runner-ups; while Nicole Briggs and Katlyn Schiewe of the Gibbons 4-H Light Horse Club, whose presentation looked into the vaccination of horses, were awarded top billing.

*"All of the 33 members carried themselves with a degree of professionalism that would be the envy of any seasoned presenter,"* observed Cameron Horner, Alberta 4-H communications and marketing specialist. *"These 4-H'ers could enter a boardroom today and not miss a beat."*

The Alberta 4-H Provincial Communications competition's Presenting Partner is AltaLink, with Partner Supporters Agrium, the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, and the Government of Alberta. This year's event was hosted by Lethbridge College.



2010 Presentation Champions: Nicole Briggs, Katlyn Schiewe, Gibbons 4-H Light Horse Club



2010 Presentation competitors