

Alberta 4-H Provincial Judging Celebrates an Outstanding Year

What does it take to be a good judge? It takes thinking methodically, forming and backing up decisions, and having confidence. For 54 judging experts from across the province, these were all skills that they were able to exhibit at the 24th Annual Provincial 4-H Judging Competition. The program was held at Vermilion's Lakeland College on August 7, 2010.



The judging component began on Saturday morning with the judging of a total of ten classes. There were two classes each of swine, horse, beef, sheep and dairy. All of the judges at the event were given a quick overview of how they were to judge the class and then were given 15 minutes per class. In the afternoon, oral reasons were given on all the classes. All the members were pleased and relieved to have all the stress off when they were finished.

This year at Provincial Judging a new concept was tried out. Judges who had won trips last year were invited back to compete for the senior team to attend the National 4-H & Youth Judging Competition. Those returning judges who qualified were all in the top ten at the Provincial competition. The recipients of this trip are Kristina Huisman, Jacob Onyschuk, Taylor Isley and Stephanie Rasmussen. The winners of the junior

team to Agribition are Lindsey Douglas, Troy Lyster, Rebecca Reich, and Gail Verleysen. The competition will be in November during the Canadian Western Agribition in Regina, SK.



The recipients for the Northern International Livestock Exhibition (NILE) trip are Rosie Templeton, Lindsey Salomons, Aydon Almborg and Adriane Good. They will be going to Billings, Montana in the fall to compete with other 4-Hers and Future Farmers of America members. They will judge up to 16 classes and will also have the chance to see local landmarks and take in livestock events at the NILE.

For the Denver Western 4-H Round Up, the winners of the trip are Cara Noble, Tessa Nybo, Katelyn Dietrich and Luke Marshall. In January the team will go to Denver, Colorado to compete in a high caliber competition against other young judges from Canada and the United States. They will evaluate ten classes with oral reasons on five of them. The team will also check out the Denver Western Stock Show and have tours of local attractions.

The final award trip is to the Denver National Western Stock Show Collegiate Competition and it went to Cameron Olson. This trip will take place in January and Cameron will stay with a host family. He will observe the competition, tour Denver and attend the Stock Show.



This year's top overall judge went to Kristina Huisman from the Meadowview 4-H Multi Club.

"It's quite an honour (to be named top overall judge) and it's kind of surreal," says Kristina, "I really like having it at Lakeland College, it's a wonderful facility to have it in."

Stacy Murray, Peace Regional 4-H Specialist notes that "this year's competition went well. We had a very high caliber of members who attended."

This year's Provincial Judging Competition had the most delegates in the past eight years which made the competition, as Stacy puts it, "stiff."

For any senior member who wants to put their skills to the test and be the judge, be sure to check with your Regional 4-H Specialist on how to qualify for next year's Provincial 4-H Multi-Species Judging Competition.

Presenting Partner for the 4-H Provincial Judging Competition is ATB Financial, and Partner Supporters are Government of Alberta and Growing Forward. The Partner Host is Lakeland College.