



Beef Leaders' Update – It Keeps Getting “BUD”er Every Year

Every two years, 4-H beef project leaders from Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan congregate for the keenly-focused Beef Leaders' Update Program (BUD) where the goals are to increase one's industry knowledge, expand one's network and hone one's leadership skills. From November 14 to 16, the Alberta 4-H Centre played host to 48 beef leaders, 46 from Alberta and one from British Columbia and Saskatchewan, respectively.

“The turnout at this year's 4th bi-annual BUD program was conducive to effective educating, socializing and interacting,” observed Mark Sayers, South Region BAC representative. “It was a very functional number as it allowed for plenty of one-on-one time and each delegate was able to be actively involved and engaged by each session.”

And what a variety of sessions to choose from!

To kick things off on Saturday morning, Tyson Gardner held an interactive clipping and grooming demonstration at the Lakedell Arena. Delegates were able to choose from a Level 1 Training module, which ran concurrently to Beef Games and Activities, which gave leaders an opportunity to learn project-specific activities to help to reinforce learning.

The second round of Select-A-Sessions had Brenda Robinson discussing the always-relevant topic of Managing Conflict while Sarah Tingley presented on CCIA and age verification, with an explanation of CCIA tags, the CCIA website and how tagging should be done to keep retention rates higher being explained.

Developing a feeding plan, switching feeds, and keeping the animal on feed were all items discussed as part of Bob Berry's Calf Nutrition session. “A Year in the Life of a 4-H Steer” was led by Dr. Lewis who outlined parasites, vaccines and implantations and encouraged leaders to come equipped with their own round of inquiries.

Sunday's topics covered judging, with Susann Stone sharing activities to help members become more engaged with the judging program; Leisa Gallelli and Linda Ross spoke on How to Breed the Right Heifer by explaining selection, body condition, cycles and so on, and Richard Heninger of the Alberta Regional Supervisor for the Canadian Beef Grading Agency giving the skinny on meat grading.

Janet Kerr, Special Projects Coordinator, outlined simple ways to reduce the likelihood of an infection at venues like the 4-H show and sales being a prime example. Tracy Dietrich discussed questions about projects, record books and Achievement Day planning.

There were also Keynote Speakers, Eileen Leslie, Tim O'Bryne, Richard Stadlwieser, a Silent Auction and raffle, with proceeds going to the Provincial 4-H Beef Advisory Committee (BAC) and a learning conducive environment for leaders and presenters alike.

BUD was generously supported by the following title sponsors: Apache Canada Ltd, United Farmers of Alberta, and co-sponsors: Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Farm Credit Canada, Agriculture and Rural Development, Ketchum Manufacturing Inc., Alberta Beef Producers, Lakeland College, AMA Insurance. - 30 -