

Investing in the Future of the Beef Industry - Our Youth!

Minnesota's Youth Beef Experience Program & Quiz Bowl Competition



2009 Beef Knowledge Bowl Senior Champion Team - Nolan Hohenstein, Zach Post, Evan Koep, Tanner Post & Steve May (MSCA Executive Director)

Minnesota Beef Knowledge Bowl Competition

The Jackson County 4-H Team took Grand Champion Honors in the senior division at Minnesota's 2009 Beef Quiz Bowl Team competition during this year's Beef Expo. A team sponsored by the Mississippi Valley Cattlemen's Association received the reserve champion spot. Mississippi Valley Cattlemen also the sponsored of the Grand Champion junior division team. The North Prairie Shooters took the Reserve Champion ribbon in the junior division.

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association is supporting the champion senior division team in the national competition at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association Annual Convention in San Antonio Texas January 27-30, 2010. That support is one of the way's MSCA elected to invest a \$5,000 award from Pfizer Animal Health when MSCA won last year's national "Pfizer Cattle-master Competition." Each of the Jackson County 4-H team members will receive a \$500 scholarship from MSCA to help offset the cost of travel & lodging to compete at national.



2009 Beef Knowledge Bowl Junior Champion Team - Steve May (MSCA Executive Director), Alicia Moe, Athena Moe, Kaylee Kathrein and Leah Giess

This year's competition included seven teams and involving a total of 28 your cattlemen and women. They did an outstanding job of demonstrating their knowledge of the beef industry. They worked hard getting ready for a half day of answering a rapid fire slate of questions on the beef industry. The break out this years participants is a follows:

Senior Division

Grand Champion Jackson County 4-H Senior Team

Evan Koep	Zach Post
Austin Liepold	Nathan Schultz

Reserve Champion - Mississippi Valley Cattlemen's Association Sr. Team 2

Nick Zastrow	Dylan Pratt
Neil Zimmer	Danielle Pratt

3rd Place - North Prairie Shooters Senior Team

Zach Langley	Abe Hauge
James Knudsen	Justin Blumer

4th Place - Mississippi Valley Cattlemen's Association Senior Team 1

Megan Holder	Dakota Schellin
Anthony Horak	Jacob Holder

Junior Division

Grand Champion - Mississippi Valley Cattlemen's Assn. Jr. Team

Kaylee Kathrein	Leah Giess
Alicia Moe	Athena Moe

Reserve Champion - North Prairie Shooters Jr. Team II

Jordan Bergan	Josh Brown
Clay Johnson	Caroline Mayer

3rd Place - North Prairie Shooters Jr. Team

Ben Markegard	Jorli Hauge
Jordan Markegard	Hunter Aggen

The Jackson County 4-H team is coached by Andrea Ruesch and Sheldon Johnson. MSCA's scholarship's will go a long way to supporting this team's efforts, but travel and lodging are expensive. If you can assist the team with an additional donation please contact Andrea at rueschandrea@hotmail.com or (507) 360-6198. Let's all pitch in and make sure this team has the support necessary to let them focus on winning the national contest.

Meet the Knowledge Bowl Champion Team

The Jackson County 4-H Team is coached by Andrea Ruesch and Sheldon Johnson. Here is closer look at the team members; Nolan Hohenstein, Zach Post, Evan Koep, & Tanner Post.

All four attend Jackson County Central High School. Nolan is the son of Kim and Michele Hohenstein. Evan is the son of Larry and Cindy Koep. Tanner & Zach are sons of Brian and Melanie Post.

The Jackson County Team brought a lot of livestock experience and knowledge to the competition. Nolan Hohenstein was the high intermediate individual at the 2009 Minnesota State 4-H General Livestock Judging Contest. Evan Koep exhibited the 2009 Reserve Grand Champion Market Lamb at the Minnesota State Fair.

Tanner Post was the 2009 Reserve Grand Champion Junior Stockman at the Jackson County Fair. Zach Post was a member of the 2008 Champion Overall Senior General Livestock Judging Team at the Minnesota State 4-H Contest. Well done to all involved!

Education Is Key Part of YBEP

The Minnesota Youth Beef Experience Program provides an educational element to caring for livestock. The UMN Beef Team and the USDA Farm Service Agency provided a complete menu of training sessions this year as part of the program.

That training took place on October 15th, the 1st day of Beef Expo. Brian Hartman from USDA's Farm Service Agency provided the details on young producer loans available to assist youth in getting started in farming & ranching.

The UMN Beef Team provided a full range of training on livestock handling. Dr. Ryon Walker went over the basics on animal handling and facilities design. Dr. Walker stressed the need for safety when handling livestock. He also explained the responsibility we all have to always demonstrate proper handling & care of our livestock as agriculture is always under scrutiny by the general public.

Dr. Grant Crawford explained the feeding & nutrition requirements of cattle. Care must always be exercised in ensuring livestock receive the proper type and amount of feed.

Dr. Ryan Cox & Pete Nelson went over the basics of meat processing, explaining how value is determined with respect to market animals and how proper handling, care and feeding enhances that value.



UMN Beef Team Provides a YBEP Training Session at UMN Meat Laboratory

Minnesota Youth Beef Experience Program

The Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association (MSCA) is investing in the future of the beef industry through the Youth Beef Experience Program (YBEP). For the second year MSCA members have donated the funds necessary to purchase and award a heifer to young person intent on raising beef cattle. The program provides a lot more than just an opportunity for young cattlemen & women to get started in the beef cattle industry. YBEP includes plenty of education, training, mentoring and a major 4-H/FFA supported science project that helps young people learn about the important responsibilities that go along with owning and caring for livestock.

The YBEP is a team effort unique to Minnesota. That team



UMN Beef Team Members Pete Nelson & Dr. Ryan Cox explain what's under the hide

includes; UMN Beef Team & Extension Service, Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association, the MN Shorthorn Association, the MN Angus Association, the MN Hereford Breeders Association, the MN Limousin Association, the MN Charolais Association, MN Simmental Association, Northern States South Devon Association, MN Beef Exposition and 4-H and FFA adult leaders from across the state are all involved in this powerful program. There is a huge amount of "cow sense and experience" within these groups. Their willingness to invest in young people bodes well for the future of Minnesota's Beef Industry.

The Youth Beef Experience Program helped 8 young adults get a footing in the beef industry this year. Those 8 young men and women were provided the basic building block of our industry, a sound heifer on which to start the foundation of beef herd. Along with that animal, also included is some basic education, record keeping requirements, and general advice/assistance as those young men or women care for and take those animals through the annual cycle of producing a calf.

Meet this year's heifer recipients and the individuals and organizations that made it happen. Kayla Mulhern Fountain, MN received a Shorthorn heifer donated by the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association. Dakota McClendon Richville, MN received a South Devon heifer donated by the Northern States South Devon Association, Bay City, WI. Katherine Steffl from Sleepy Eye, MN received a Simmental heifer donated by Krueger Simmentals, Paul Krueger of Hastings, MN on behalf of the Minnesota Simmental Association. Jacob Halloway from Fertile, MN received an Angus heifer donated by Scheel Angus Inc., Larry Scheel of New Richmond, WI on behalf of the Minnesota Angus Association.

Amanda Schmidt Alexandria, MN received a Shorthorn heifer donated by JDMC Cattle Co., Cody Nelson, Jeff Morris, and Doug Bruns of Renville, MN on behalf of the Minnesota Shorthorn Association. Megan Witt Mabel, MN received a Limousin heifer donated by the Cripple Creek Cattle Co., Ed Bergler of Dakota, MN on behalf of the Minnesota Limousin Association. Brady Akerson Pennock, MN received a Hereford heifer donated by Delaney Herefords Inc., Jerry Delaney & Family of Lake Benton, MN on behalf of the Minnesota Hereford Breeders Association. Reid Oftedahl Pemberton, MN received a Charolais heifer donated by Stony Brook Livestock, Larry & Cathy Balvitsch of Foley, MN on behalf of the MN/WI Charolais Association.

MSCA would like to thank all the individuals and groups that are part of making this program a success. A special thank you is in order to Mark and Claudine Goodrich of Emerald, WI. This program was their brain child and through their hard work it has blossomed into a robust program that continues to help young people get over the financial and knowledge hurdles of starting a beef herd.



Dar Giess MSCA Vice President outlines the goals of the YBEP