

MICHIGAN FARMER

Ottawa County Youth Is State's Top Senior Dairy Cattle Judge



Hayleigh Geurink receives George M. Robb Memorial Award

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Farm Futures
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For the second year in a row, a 4-H member from Ottawa County was the state's top senior dairy cattle judge at the Michigan 4-H and Youth Dairy Days, an annual dairy youth activity held in conjunction with the Michigan Dairy Expo. This year's expo, the 18th annual, took place July 21-25 at the Michigan State University (MSU) Pavilion for Agriculture and Livestock Education in East Lansing.

Hayleigh Geurink, Allendale, was the top ranking individual overall and in oral reasons in the senior division of this year's dairy cattle judging contest. As the high individual overall in the senior division, Geurink received the George M. Robb Memorial Award.

Youth are eligible to compete in one of three age divisions in the dairy cattle judging contest: novice, junior or senior. Participants in the senior category – for young people ages 15 to 21 – evaluated the conformation of eight classes of dairy animals (four animals in each class) and presented three sets of oral reasons. Evaluation scores were tallied according to how closely the contestant's placing matched the judges' official placing. In the oral reasons presentation, which is comparable to making an oral defense case in court, judges assign individual scores to each contestant based on how well the young person can justify his reasons for placing the cows in the order he did. Contestants can earn a total of 50 points in both the evaluation and oral reasons parts of the contest for each class.

Individuals compete against one another with the shared goal of placing among the top 25, which earns them a chance to vie for one of 12 positions on the state's traveling youth dairy cattle judging teams. These teams will compete at three national contests in the fall – the All-American in Harrisburg, Pa., World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis., and the North American International Livestock Exhibition in Louisville, Ky. The Michigan 4-H and Youth Dairy Days dairy cattle judging contest is just the first step in what will be a series of intensive workouts and independent practices to earn a spot on one of the teams.

ADVERTISING

Rounding out the top 25 overall individuals in the senior division of the dairy cattle judging contest were:

2. Lucas Moser, Dansville (Ingham County)
3. Kayla Holsten, Milan (Washtenaw County)
4. Joshua Markel, Westphalia (Clinton County)
5. Zeke Breuninger, Dexter (Washtenaw County)

6. Stephanie Rasmussen, Corunna (Shiawassee County)
7. Kayle Jakus, St. Johns (Clinton County)
8. Allison Schafer, Westphalia (Clinton County)
9. Shelby Berens, Holland (Allegan County)
10. Rachel Ekkel, Fremont (Newaygo County)
11. Cameron Cook, Pewamo (Clinton County)
12. Bryce Frahm, Frankenmuth (Saginaw County)
13. Mason Horning, Manchester (Washtenaw County)
14. Mason Lettinga, Middleville (Barry County)
15. Jenna Beeker, Constantine (St. Joseph County)
16. Hannah Poling, Addison (Hillsdale County)
17. Suzanna Hull, North Adams (Hillsdale County)
18. Maddie Meyer, Ionia (Clinton County)
19. Forest Nash, Elsie (Clinton County)
20. Austin Haywood, Hastings (Barry County)
21. Natalie Horning, Manchester (Washtenaw County)
22. Taylor Fuhrman, Perry (Shiawassee County)
23. Alexis Bowman, Jerome (Hillsdale County)
24. Skylar Buell, Carleton (Monroe County)
25. Miriah Dershem, St. Johns (Clinton County)

In the team category, the joint team of Clinton/Ingham County Team A placed first overall and first in oral reasons. Team members were: Cameron Cook, Pewamo; Maddie Meyer, Ionia; Allison Schafer, Westphalia; and Lucas Moser, Dansville.

In second place overall and in oral reasons was Washtenaw County Team A. Team members were: Zeke Breuninger, Dexter; Erica Drake, Ann Arbor; Kayla Holsten, Milan; and Natalie Horning, Manchester. Clinton County Team B finished in third place overall and in oral reasons: Miriah Dershem, Carmen Hicks and Kayle Jakus, St. Johns; and Joshua Markel, Westphalia. Fourteen teams competed in this year's contest.

For the oral reasons contest in the senior division, rounding out the top 25 individuals were:

2. Lucas Moser, Dansville (Ingham County)
3. Kayla Holsten, Milan (Washtenaw County)
4. Natalie Horning, Manchester (Washtenaw County)
5. Kayle Jakus, St. Johns (Clinton County)
6. Rachel Ekkel, Fremont (Newaygo County)
7. Cameron Cook, Pewamo (Clinton County)
8. Suzanna Hull, North Adams (Hillsdale County)
9. Allison Schafer, Westphalia (Clinton County)
10. Zeke Breuninger, Dexter (Washtenaw County)
11. Hannah Poling, Addison (Hillsdale County)
12. Amanda Breuninger, Dexter (Washtenaw County)
13. Bryce Frahm, Frankenmuth (Saginaw County)
14. Maddie Meyer, Ionia (Clinton County)
15. Mason Lettinga, Middleville (Barry County)
16. Shelby Berens, Holland (Allegan County)
17. Joshua Markel, Westphalia (Clinton County)
18. Stephanie Rasmussen, Corunna (Shiawassee County)
19. Jenna Beeker, Constantine (St. Joseph County)
20. Austin Haywood, Hastings (Barry County)
21. Mason Horning, Manchester (Washtenaw County)
22. Rachel Weidmayer, Ann Arbor (Washtenaw County)
23. Morgan Pish, Quincy (Branch County)
24. Taylor Fuhrman, Perry (Shiawassee County)
25. Miriah Dershem, St. Johns (Clinton County)

Clinton/Ingham County team wins

In the team category for oral reasons, the joint team of Clinton/Ingham County Team A placed

first overall. Team members were: Cameron Cook, Pewamo; Maddie Meyer, Ionia; Allison Schafer, Westphalia; and Lucas Moser, Dansville.

As the youth-centered portion of the Michigan Dairy Expo, the largest annual dairy event in the state, Michigan 4-H and Youth Dairy Days offers young people interested in the dairy industry opportunities to compete for premiums, ribbons and scholarships in various educational activities, including dairy quiz bowls, dairy management contests, dairy cattle judging competitions and the Dairy Days youth show. This year, more than 200 youth from around the state participated in one or more of the educational competitions, and winners may go on to represent Michigan in national competitions.

For more information about the Michigan 4-H dairy youth program, contact Melissa Elischer at 517-432-4306. For more information about the Michigan dairy cattle judging program or the Michigan Dairy Expo, contact Domecq at 517-353-7855.

The 2015 Michigan Dairy Expo is scheduled for July 20-24 at MSU.