Livestock Judging Team Earns Reserve Champion at Cattlemans’s Classic

At the 2014 Nebraska Cattlemans’s Classic on Feb. 22 in Kearney, the Lancaster County 4-H senior livestock judging team earned reserve champion high team. Team members included Michaela Cloower, Brandon Sieck and Renae Sieck. Individual results included Michaela Cloower placing 5th overall and 5th in reasons, and Taylon Lienemann placing 9th in reasons.

The Lancaster County 4-H’er Colter Tietjen participated as a junior individual.

Livestock Quality Assurance Certification Must be Done Online by June 15

All 4-H/FFA members wanting to show market beef, market sheep, market swine, meat and dairy goats, dairy cattle, poultry and rabbits at county fair, State Fair, or the Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Fair Stock Show must complete Quality Assurance training. Horse exhibitors and livestock exhibitors showing only breeding animals do not have to complete it.

Again this year, the Quality Assurance certification is online. In the past youth must have completed an in person training; now everything is online. This new format is more user friendly, youth complete activities that pertain to their age, and youth are able to complete the trainings at their own pace and time allotment.

As always this must be done by June 15. Instructions are online at http://4h.unl.edu/qualityassurance. Please pass along all of this information to youth in your club who will need to be QA certified. If you have any questions regarding this new format, contact Cole at cmeador2@unl.edu or 402-441-7180.

New in 4-H at Fair

See the Fair Book for detailed information about each of the following:

• Special County Exhibit: Fair promotional exhibit — exhibit should promote the Lancaster County Super Fair. Include information describing exhibit, inspiration for it, etc.

• Photography: Unit II — Career exhibit print (photographer), Creative editing display, Favorite photos taken with smartphone or tablet display; Unit III — Career exhibit print (editorial photographer), Favorite photos taken with smart phone or tablet display

• Clothing: Textile Arts Garment or Accessory a garment or accessory constructed using new unconventional materials. Examples: rubber bands, plastic, duct tape. A description of the design process must accompany the entry or it will be disqualified.

• Home Environment: Design My Place replaces Create Your Corner. All new classes

• Food & Nutrition: Six Easy Bites — Bar Cookies Woodworking: Unit 3 & 4 — Recycled Woodworking Displays

• Cat Show: Record book keeping — books will be judged on completeness.

• Poultry Show:

  • Exhibitor can enter a total of 15 pens

  • Judging Contest — This contest allows the contestants to place a class of four to six poultry, giving written reasons for their placements. Written comments may be used as tie-breakers.

  • Breed Identification Contest — Each competitor must correctly identify six to ten breeds. Points are awarded for each correctly answered I.D. In case of a tie, there will be tie-breaker questions for bonus points.

• Horse Show:

  • Ranch Horse Versatility — Ridden and judged individually; Designed to show how broke and responsive your horse is to cues, the pattern requires a walk, trot & lope in both directions, stop & back.

  • All who participate in the live cattle events must have a level II in horsemanship.

  • To participate in a jumping class, riders must demonstrate the ability to perform a jump.

  • To participate in a showmanship class, riders must demonstrate the ability to show their horse in a showmanship class.

  • Hunter Jumper Jumping Show — heights have been lowered and new Green Horse/Rider Division

• GDQ — Western Dressage classes

Sheridan Swotek at National 4-H Congress

Each year, Nebraska 4-H selects youth to represent the state at National 4-H Youth Congress based upon the achievements outlined in the 4-H Career Portfolio. Last November, a Lancaster County 4-H’er attended National 4-H Congress for the first time since 2001.

Sheridan Swotek represented Nebraska for her Leadership and Citizenship 4-H Career Portfolio. She applied for and was selected as one of 12 youth on the 2013 National 4-H Congress Youth Leadership Team AND one of 10 National 4-H Congress Young Entertainers. Youth Leadership Team members emceed and assisted with events. As a Youth Entertainer, Sheridan presented her “Crazy 4-H Moms” speech at the Sunday Adult Breakfast (a video of her speech is on the Lancaster County 4-H YouTube Channel at http://youtu.be/GomanzaZ8F).

The 2013 National 4-H Congress was held in Atlanta, Ga. Approximately 1,300 4-H’ers from all 50 states, Puerto Rico and Kenya attended. The event included educational workshops, keynote speakers and hands-on community service.

Sheridan says, “National Congress has been the highlight so far in my 4-H Career! Ideas, memories and friendships were shared among the amazing 4-H youth and leaders. I highly encourage other 4-H members to do career portfolios so they can become eligible for National Congress.”

Nebraska 4-H’ers Excel at Horse Nationals!

In January, more than 900 youth from 30 states, along with Alberta, Canada, traveled to Denver, Colo. to take part in the 4-H/FFA Western National Roundup. Several Nebraska 4-H youth attended the 2013 4-H Horse Classic portion of the Roundup. Each team and individual had to first win the state competition to qualify for nationals.

Team Nebraska (consisting of Lancaster County 4-H’ers) earned 2nd High Overall State Award! The High Overall State Award is given to the state with the overall highest score based on placings in the five different competitions. Top five teams in the nation were, in order of placing: Colorado, Nebraska, Texas, California and Arizona.

The Horse Bowl team of Elli Dearnmont, Ivy Dearnmont, Kate Rawlison, Hannah Rannou and Lexi Wolfe (coached by Kendra Rannou) earned Overall High Team — National Champions! The competition included one-on-one questions and toss-up questions. Horse Bowl Overall Individuals included Kate Rawlison placing 2nd, Elli Dearnmont placing 5th and Hannah Rannou placing 6th.

In Horse Public Speaking, Sierra Nelson earned 4th High Individual with her speech “Is He the One to Impress?”

The Lancaster County Horse Bowl Team earned national champions!