

For Immediate Release

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Area Youth Win at the Inaugural Midwest Youth Dairy Goat Judging Contest

ORANGE CITY, Iowa – The inaugural Midwest Youth Dairy Goat Judging Contest is in the books and by all measures it was a success. The event was held on Friday, July 14 at the Clay County Fairgrounds in Spencer, Iowa, during the Quad State Classic Dairy Goat Show.

Contestants from five states participated in judging four classes, including three milking classes and one class of kids. In addition to placing each class, the novice competitors (under 15) were asked five questions about a class and the senior competitors (15 and over) were asked to place the class and give a two-to-three-minute set of reasons that justified their placing of the class. Dairy professionals who have experience in dairy judging listened to the reasons and placed each set of reasons on a scale of 1-50.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Field Specialist Fred Hall, one of the coordinators of the event, noted that the program provided youth the opportunity to develop the skills inherent in a judging program, namely: conformation evaluation, vocabulary, logical thinking, public speaking, and the development of personal confidence and poise.

Retired ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Specialist Dale Thoreson handled the microphone duties, keeping contests and the ringside aware of what was going on during the day.

The official judge for the day was Gerrett Moore, a dairy goat breeder from Minnesota. He placed the classes and then determined the “cuts”. That is the number of points that will be lost by the contestant if that particular pair is switched in comparison to the official placing. The smaller the cut value assigned by officials, the more difficult the placing. Larger numerical cut values represent easier decisions.

In the novice division, the top placings came from Natalie Tague from Eddyville, Iowa. The second through fourth winners included Adalene Meyer and Ainsley Meyer from

Lyons, Nebraska, second and third respectively; and Addison Tague from Eddyville. Addison also earned second place in the questions division.

In the senior division, Sophia Fogarty from Aberdeen, South Dakota, earned the high score for placings followed by second, Kamy Branson from Fairbury, Nebraska; third Kaylee Cavanh from North Liberty, Iowa; fourth Evan Tague from Eddyville, Iowa, and fifth Autumn Wild from Ames, Iowa.

Senior reasons winners found Kaylee Cavanh from North Liberty, Iowa, on top; followed by second Mason Glessing from Waverly, Minnesota; third Sophia Fogarty from Aberdeen, South Dakota; fourth Evan Tague from Eddyville, and fifth Autumn Wild from Ames.

Combining placing and questions scores, the overall novice winner was Natalie Tague winning a belt buckle. Winners from second to fourth included Adalene Meyer, Ainsley Meyer and Addison Tague, respectively.

In the senior division, Sophia Fogarty earned first and the belt buckle award. Second through eighth places included: second Kaylee Cavanh; third Kamy Branson; fourth Evan Tague; fifth Autumn Wild; sixth Mason Glessing; seventh Emma Wiebold from Boone, Iowa; and eighth Harmony Wilson from Oberlin, Kansas.

In addition to individual judges, there were three teams of four individuals who were vying for honors.

The top novice team included contestants from Iowa and Nebraska, Natalie and Addison Tague from Iowa, and Adalene and Ainsley Meyer from Nebraska.

The top senior team included Sophia Fogarty, Aberdeen, South Dakota; Kamy Branson, Fairbury, Nebraska; Evan Tague, Eddyville, Iowa; and Mason Glessing, Waverly, Minnesota.

The second-place team included Kaylee Cavanh, North Liberty, Iowa; Autumn Wild, Ames, Iowa; Emma Wiebold, Boone, Iowa; and Harmony Wilson, Oberlin, Kansas.

For more information about the event, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Dairy Field Specialist in your area: in Northwest Iowa, Fred M. Hall, 712-737-4230 or fredhall@iastate.edu; in Northeast Iowa, Jennifer Bentley, 563-382-2949 or jbentley@iastate.edu; in East Central Iowa, Larry Tranel, 563-583-6496 or tranel@iastate.edu.

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6573 - Overall novice winner (L) Natalie Tague from Eddyville Iowa. (R) Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Specialist was one of the event coordinators.

6598 - In the senior division, Sophia Fogarty (L) was the overall winner and earned the award belt buckle. (R) Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Specialist was one of the event coordinators.

6605 - Overall buckle winners included Senior winner (left) Sophia Fogarty from Aberdeen, South Dakota and Novice winner (center) Natalie Tague from Eddyville Iowa. (R) Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Specialist was one of the event coordinators.

6578 - The top overall senior team included: (L-R) Kamy Branson from Fairbury, Nebraska; Sophia Fogarty from Aberdeen, South Dakota; Evan Tague from Eddyville, Iowa; and Mason Glessing from Waverly, Minnesota, (far L and R) Iowa State University Extension and Outreach dairy specialists Dr. Gail Carpenter(L) and Fred Hall event coordinators.

6565 - The overall novice team included: (L-R) Addison and Natalie Tague from Eddyville and Adalene and Ainsley Meyer from Lyons, Nebraska. (R) Iowa State University Extension and Outreach dairy specialist (right) was one of the event coordinators.

6581 - The second-place senior team included: (L-R) Autumn Wild, Ames, Iowa; Harmony Wilson, Oberlin, Kansas; Kaylee Cavanh, North Liberty, Iowa; and Emma Wiebold, Boone, Iowa; (far L and R) Iowa State University Extension and Outreach dairy specialists Dr. Gail Carpenter(L) and Fred Hall event coordinators.

6515 - Retired Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Dairy Specialist Dale Thoreson shared his insights from years of judging.

6500 - Mason Glessing from Waverly, Minnesota giving his set of reasons to the officials.

6374 - Emma Wiebold, Boone, Iowa goes in for close inspection during a milking doe class.