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The “Olympics” of 4-H Dairy Shows!

2011 TD CANADIAN 4-H DAIRY CLASSIC JUNIOR DAIRY SHOW – 32 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG!

355 of Canada’s top dairy youth from 51 teams across 7 Canadian provinces took part in the 32nd annual TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair on November 5-7, 2011. 4-H members age 12-21 demonstrated the 4-H motto of “Learn to Do by Doing” as they worked together to produce top quality displays, exceptionally well-groomed animals and interact with the public. Many new friendships were made as the participants competed as individuals and as teams at the “Olympics” of 4-H Dairy Shows.

Showmanship Judge, Carl Phoenix of Greenbank, ON along with his Associate Judge, Mike West of Orangeville, ON certainly had their work cut out for them as they sorted through three tremendously strong groups of showmanship.

Champion Showperson was awarded to the 1st Place Senior Rachel Jebson from Durham West County with Reserve going to the 2nd Place Senior Emily Den Haan from South Simcoe County. Honourable Mention went to the 1st Place Junior Peter Leach from Kawartha Lakes County.

Conformation Judge Robert Fitzsimmons, VT, USA, had a big job to do as the quality ran deep through all conformation classes. Judge Fitzsimmons awarded Grand Champion calf to the 1st Place Holstein Junior Yearling Heifer, Vernla Jasper Candice, shown by James Walker from Wellington County. Reserve Grand Champion honours went to the 2nd Junior Yearling, Fradon Sterling Jodie, shown by Mark Hazeleger from Oxford County. Honourable Mention went to Ava Doner of Durham East on her 1st Prize Jersey Calf Willdina Amadeo Joleen.

Meanwhile, back in the barn, the competition was full-steam ahead as the county and provincial teams competed for the best exhibit award. The team from Perth finished on top, followed very closely by Middlesex, Lanark and a four-way tie for fourth place between with Brant, Carleton, Prescott and Waterloo.

Oxford County was the winner of the Best Group of Three, with Quebec East coming in a close second. Durham West County was awarded the prestigious “Bill Edelstein Bowl” for the Premier County as they accumulated the most overall points in showmanship, conformation and best exhibit.

A new feature started last year was the “Breeder of Distinction.” Paul Ekstein from Quality Holsteins in Vaughan, ON was named this year’s Breeder of Distinction and was on hand to meet and greet the participants during the show. Paul also generously donated two female embryos from the famous *Frantisco* family for a draw. Emma Farlinger of Dundas County was the lucky winner of this great genetic prize!

The Classic is not just another 4-H show, but an elite opportunity for the nation’s dairy youth to showcase their talent and unite with other keen 4-H’ers at a world-class event. We thank sponsors TD Canada Trust, Kubota Canada, Semex Alliance and Holstein Canada who were on hand throughout the day. Without their commitment to the agricultural youth, shows such as the Classic simply would not happen. Various other guests were also on hand to bring greetings throughout the show.

Contact the Ontario Holstein Branch at (519) 653-6180 or branch@ontario.holstein.ca for more information.