

MOOOVIN'
in

MINNESOTA!
2006 JRA Round-Up

Moovin' in Minnesota 2006 was the theme for the 14th JRA educational leadership tour and conference known as Junior Round-Up.

Forty Juniors from 14 states and 2 Canadian provinces convened on the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, for five days of farm tours, educational demonstrations, business meetings, and officer elections. Junior advisor Dawn Bernhard, the JRA Board, and Alaina Burt, Jacobson, Minn., all worked extremely hard to make this year's Round-Up one of the best.

Two Canadian Juniors participated in the week's activities as part of the American/Canadian Exchange. Brittany Savage and Kaleen Harris were a great addition to their American counterparts and educated many on the intricacies of the "Canadian" vernacular.

Activities began Tuesday, June 27 with the Juniors arriving from around the country. After registration, contest sign-ups, Round-Up t-shirts provided by Accelerated Genetics and a welcome session from the JRA board, the Juniors boarded the tour bus for a trip to the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Attendees toured the Large Animal Clinic at the vet school as well as a program at the Raptor Center for a look at several birds of prey. The group then had a picnic style dinner at Harriett Island city park on the banks of the Mississippi River. After dinner and a few games they all boarded the Jonathan Padleford Paddle Boat for a three hour riverboat cruise on the Mississippi.

The group boarded the bus early Wednesday for Montevideo and a full day at Sonstegard Cattle Company, LLC. The Juniors were first welcomed by Tyler, Gary and Elaine Sonstegard. Gary then took the group on a hayride to view several groups of cattle. After lunch, which was served by members of the Sonstegard family along with Carmen Haugen, the Juniors competed in a Cattle Evaluation contest,

Equipment Identification, Stockmen's Quiz and the Team Sales competition. Paul Fehrman Family Red Angus, Clarence Caraway Family Red Angus and Weber Farms Cattle Company each provided Red Angus heifers for use in the judging contest. Rich Leiseth, Thor Nelson and Karl Bergeland, all Minnesota Red Angus breeders, served as Team Sales judges. Tyler Sonstegard gave a "How to Tattoo" demonstration which allowed some juniors to tattoo an animal for the first time. After a dinner grilled by members of the Midwest Cattlemen's Association, Gary Sonstegard spoke on opportunities in Agri-business. Ben Spitzer, RAAA Communications/Member Services Director, gave a talk on Red Angus Marketing Programs followed with a question/answer session. After a full, busy day, the Juniors then headed for the Sonstegard's pool for an evening of fun and diving competition.

Thursday, June 29, the Juniors headed north to Itasca State Park and the headwaters of the Mississippi River. A picnic lunch, provided by the Paul Fehrman family, Lake Benton, Minn., was enjoyed under the trees at the park. After a look at the headwaters and a few pictures, the Juniors departed for Clearbrook and a visit to Nordlund Stock Farm. Kelly, Linda, Mike and Sam Nordlund had several groups of cattle on display and were the hosts of the annual Barnyard Olympics. In addition to the Round-Up teams, two guest teams entered the competition: the "Old Man" team, consisting of Bryan Gill, Arlan Dahlke, Steve Minten, Eddie Olson and Mark Strandberg and the "Home Team" of Ryan McCullum, Whitney McCullum, Taylor McCullum, David Larson and Tyler Strandberg. After an entertaining competition including wild goat milking, wheelbarrow roping, pig driving and barrel racing, the Juniors went on to Lost River Livestock where they were hosted by the Mark and Sharon Larson family. The Larson's had cattle on display from three breeds; Simmental, Gelbvieh and of course, Red Angus. The group heard from the Minnesota State Veterinarian, Dr. Leon Boehland, about Tuberculosis cases in



Minnesota, and Minnesota State Representative, Brita Saylor. Former JRA member Bryan Gill, Fargo, N.D., gave a presentation on job opportunities in agriculture. The group proceeded to Bemidji, Minn. before calling it a night.

The Juniors departed for Grand Rapids and a tour of the University of Minnesota North Central Research Station. After a brief overview of the station, the group divided for in-depth tours. During the Pasture/Forage management tour, Juniors loaded onto a hay wagon were pulled around the station while Dr. Ryon Walker and Dr. Russell Mathison explained grazing strategies, forages, and pasture management. At the Embryo Collection facility, Juniors watched a presentation by Dr. Bethany Lovaas on embryo collection. At the Embryo Sexing Facility, Dr. Cliff Lamb presented an intriguing lesson on embryo splitting and DNA embryo sexing. A few Juniors were "given the reins" and split embryos under Lamb's guidance. Juniors then toured the University's Wild Rice Research Paddies for a presentation by Dr. Raymond Porter. The afternoon session included the Quiz Bowl and the Informed Speech Contest. Judges for the Speech Contest were Alaina Burt and Jaimie Brown. The group capped off another full day at Shady Oaks Farm in Jacobson for cattle tours, food, fun and games hosted by the Burt family.

On Saturday, the group made their last stop at Bowman Red Angus in Brainerd. Sid and Janet Bowman hosted the group for a wildlife educational program by Marty Anderson. The Bowmans then took the group on a pasture tour of the cowherd as well as the Weight Guessing Contest. After a delicious, home cooked meal, the Juniors boarded the bus for their final trip back to the Twin Cities for dinner, the annual Chinese Auction and the Awards Presentation. The annual JRA business meeting and officer elections were conducted on the bus enroute back to the Cities. The 2006-2007 JRA officer team is:
 President - Amber Leaf, Jacobson, Minn.

First Vice President - Casey Mushrush, Strong City, Kan.
 Second Vice President - Neil Brawner, Wood Lake, Neb.
 Leadership Director - Megan Johnson, Nunn, Colo.
 Public Relations Director - Amber Boyles, Kernersville, N.C.
 Fund Raising Director - Marianne Mendoza, Valley Springs, Calif.

Sunday found most of the Juniors saying goodbye to friends new and old and departing for home while the JRA Board completed officer training. Kristie Ploehn, Training and Development Coordinator, Corporate Human Resources, Land-O-Lakes, St. Paul, Minn., served as this year's trainer. A few Juniors with afternoon departures took advantage of the close proximity to the Mall of America for a little shopping.

The JRA would like to thank the following people for their generosity and support of Junior programs.
 Accelerated Genetics - t-shirts
 Minn. Red Angus Assoc. - meal
 Minn. Junior RA Ass. - riverboat cruise
 Jodi Weber Livestock Photography - key chains in welcome bags
 Junior Stockgrowers Contest - welcome drawstring bags
 Fehrman Family Red Angus - meal
 Cedar Hill Farm, W.V. - meal
 Bieber Red Angus, S.D. - meal
 Leachman of Colorado, Colo. - meal
 Kemps Ice Cream, Minn. - ice cream

Contest sponsors:
 Bull Hill Ranch, S.C. - quiz bowl
 Mendoza RA, Calif. - cattle evaluation
 Sandbur Ridge RA, Neb. - team sales
 Two Bit Ranch, Texas - informed speech
 U-Bar Ranch, Mont. - poster contest
 Panhandle Cattle Co., Neb. - scrapbook contest
 U-Bar Ranch, Mont. - Stockman's Quiz and equipment identification
 Parker Ranch, Ark. - Barnyard Olympics
 Bola Red Angus, Texas - High Senior and High Junior
 Bullis Creek Ranch, Neb. - Best-All-Around
 McPhee Red Angus, Calif. - weight guessing and greatest distance





Other sponsors:
 Clarence Caraway Family, Lake Benton
 Paul Fehrman Family, Lake Benton
 Weber Farms Cattle Company, Lake
 Benton and Bryan and Kristin Gill,
 N.D.

2006 Round-Up Contest Results

Speech

- Junior
 1. Christina Fehrman, Minn.
 2. Alyssa Looney, Texas
 3. Coy Goggins, Neb.
- Senior
 1. Amber Leaf, Minn.
 2. Kelsea Kiker, Tex.
 3. Megan Minten, Minn.

Poster

- Junior
 1. Darby Gilbert, Iowa
 2. Colt Eklund, Texas
- Senior
 1. Sara Hammes, Iowa
 2. Kelsea Kiker, Texas

Scrapbook

1. Megan Minten, Minn.
 2. Kelsea Kiker, Texas

Print Advertising

- Junior
 1. Mariah Mendoza, Calif.
 2. Alyssa Looney, Texas
 3. Darby Gilbert, Iowa
- Senior
 1. Megan Minten, Minn.
 2. Amber Leaf, Minn.
 3. Brittany Savage, Canada

Stockman's Quiz

- Junior
 1. Cole Mushrush, Kan.
 2. Mariah Mendoza, Calif.
 3. Montgomery Dempsey, Tenn.
- Senior
 1. Casey Mushrush, Kan.
 2. Sara Hammes, Iowa
 3. Kelsea Kiker, Texas

Equipment I.D.

- Junior
 1. Montgomery Dempsey, Tenn.
 2. Christina Fehrman, Minn.

3. Cole Mushrush, Kan.
 Senior
 1. Megan Minten, Minn.
 2. Casey Mushrush, Kan.
 3. Neil Brawner, Neb.

Weight Guessing

- Junior
 1. Coy Goggins, Neb.
 2. Chelsea Rorison, W.Va.
 3. Samantha Berg, Minn.
- Senior
 1. Kaleen Harris, Canada
 2. Amber Boyles, N.C.
 3. Brittany Savage, Canada

Team Sales

1st Place Team: James Deist, Tenn.;
 Kelsea Kiker, Texas; Megan Minten,
 Minn.; Grant Nelson, Minn.
 2nd Place: Tina Merritt, Calif.;
 Nathan Nelson, Minn.; Colt Eklund,
 Texas; Daniel Weidenbach, S.D.

Barnyard Olympics

1st Place: Colt Eklund, Texas; Chelsea
 Rorison, W. Va.; Neil Brawner, Neb.;
 Casey Mushrush, Kan.; Tyler Rush,
 Mo.
 2nd Place: Samantha Berg, Minn.;
 Tucker Brown, Texas; Christopher
 Gosnell, Texas; Sara Hammes, Iowa;
 Megan Minten, Minn.

Quiz Bowl

1st Place: Bryantt Bolduc, Minn.;
 Amber Boyles, N.C.; Tara Hipes,
 Calif.; Alyzabeth Looney, Texas; Cole
 Mushrush, Kan.
 2nd Place: Tucker Brown, Texas;
 Megan Johnson, Colo.; Kelsea Kiker,
 Texas; Alyssa Looney, Texas; Brittany
 Savage, Canada

Overall Junior:

Colt Eklund, Texas
 Reserve: Mariah Mendoza, Calif.

Overall Senior:

Megan Minten, Minn.
 Reserve Senior: Kelsea Kiker, Texas

Best-All-Around: Megan Minten

Reserve: Kelsea Kiker

Greatest Distance Traveled to

Round-Up: Marianne and Mariah
 Mendoza, Valley Springs, Calif. ■