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Contact: Andrea Emond  
Tel: 519-209-5553  
aemond@ontario.holstein.ca



### CANADA'S BEST COMPETE AT 38<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL 4-H DAIRY SHOW

**Brantford, ON November 10, 2017** – Months of training and hard work paid off earlier this week as hundreds of keen 4-H'ers arrived in Toronto to compete at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic. A total of 347 4-H members from Ontario, Quebec, Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia represented their respective counties and provinces during the three-day event held from November 6 – 8 at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. Teams arrived on Sunday and Monday to set up their displays and get their calves settled in. 4-H members competed individually in both showmanship and conformation competitions, as well as in teams for Best Exhibit, Best Group of Three Calves and Premier County.

The Ring of Excellence once again proved an ideal venue for the show, with exhibitors and spectators alike enjoying the intimate atmosphere a smaller ring allows. For the first time in show history, two female judges presided over the Showmanship competition and did an exceptional job. Judge Stephanie Murphy of Hastings, Ont. and her associate, Claire Swale of the U.K. put 4-H members to the test, allowing them to display their showmanship skills during the heats and finals held on November 7.

The show kicked off with Matt Lange from South Simcoe singing the national anthem. Show announcers for day 1 were Gary West and Wendy Hasson, who welcomed the crowd and carried them through the day's events.

Junior Showmanship was the first group in the ring and after five heats, Judge Murphy began her work in the finals. She chose Kolton Crack of Quebec South East as her Junior Showperson and Will Vander Meulen and Katelyn Redner, both of Northumberland, as her second and third place winners, respectively. After five heats of Intermediate Showmanship, Durham East's Benjamin Sargent came out on top, with Cally Finley of Durham West in second, and Taylor Vander Meulen of Northumberland in third. Senior Showmanship had five heats as well and saw Frontenac's Rachel Clow rise to the top. Alana McKinven of Quebec South West was second; Sarah Mason of Oxford finished in third.

As Judge Murphy lined up her top showmanship winners from each group, she expressed her thanks to Associate Judge Claire Swale and wished her well in judging next year's competition. Finally, she thanked her mentors over the years as well as her husband and her family for looking after Ronbeth Holsteins while she was away. Before naming her Grand Champions, Judge Murphy asked each finalist a question and gave them the opportunity to say a few words. To cap off a great first day, Judge Murphy chose first place senior, Rachel

Clow, as her Grand Champion Showperson. She selected Alana McKinven (2<sup>nd</sup> Senior) as Reserve and Kolton Crack (1<sup>st</sup> Junior) as Honourable Mention.

On Wednesday November 8, announcers Gary West and Brenda Turner welcomed guests and the conformation classes began. Conformation Judge Brian Carscadden of Guelph, Ont., began placing the many heats and classes of top 4-H Holsteins, Jerseys, Ayrshires and other coloured breeds from across the country. He chose his first-place Holstein Summer Yearling, Faraway Doorman Missy, shown by Peter Leach of Kawartha Lakes, as Grand Champion Calf. Reserve went to the first-place Senior, Milksource Gldndrm Asset-ET, shown by Reagan Bouma of PEI. Honourable Mention was the first-place Jersey Summer Yearling, Morningmist Venom Ivanka 272, shown by Kristen Portena of Perth.

The Best Exhibit is one of the most sought-after titles at the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic. Monday and Tuesday, the exhibits were judged for cleanliness, interaction with members of the public, signage and the overall display. For the second year in a row, Middlesex County was declared the winner, with South Simcoe and Prescott following closely behind in second and third place, respectively. There were many counties tied for a spot in the top 10 for Best Exhibit. It was such a close competition, in fact, that less than five points separated the first and tenth place finishers! For the second year in a row, Carleton County had the best Group of Three, with PEI and Oxford in second and third spot. Northumberland won the “Bill Edelstein Bowl” for Premier County. As a county, they accumulated the most points in Showmanship, Conformation and Best Exhibit. The lucky winner of the showbox, (handcrafted by Southgate Senior Centre in Woodstock) was William Baumgartner of Russell County.

This year’s “Breeder of Distinction” was Bosdale Farms of Cambridge, Ont. Ed Bos was on hand to bring greetings during the show and generously donated five embryos from notable cows on his farm. Sarah Mason of Oxford was the lucky winner of this fabulous prize.

Two award presentations took place during the show on Wednesday. The Stewart family and 4-H Ontario was on hand in the morning to present the Bertram and Hazel Stewart 4-H Dairy Youth Education Award and Bursary. This award and conditional bursary of \$1,000 is awarded annually to an eligible 4-H Ontario Dairy Club member to support post-secondary education. This year’s deserving recipient was Morgan Anderson of Chatham-Kent. The Parish family presented the Justin Parish Memorial Bursary in honour of their late son. Justin’s dream was to one day make it to the Royal and his dream lives on through this award that is presented to a first-time competitor at the Classic each year. This year’s winner was Kristen Schmidt of Perth County.

The Classic would not be possible without the commitment to youth from sponsors TD Canada Trust, Semex Alliance and Holstein Canada in the form of generous donations. The organizing committee and all of the 4-H members attending are truly grateful for their support. Many 4-H members would not be able to make it the TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic without the support of many local sponsors at home, parents, leaders and other volunteers. They deserve a huge thank you as well.

Full results from this year’s TD Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic are available via AssistExpo:

<https://rawf.assistexpo.ca:5443/results/rawf/17>