

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release



Youth - Right Royal Friday Feature

Friday of the Royal New Zealand Show has been dedicated to youth and as part of that day the Royal Agricultural Society (RAS) run junior stock judging classes in the dairy, beef and sheep sections. As a new initiative this year a fleece section was also added.

Sponsored by LIC Ltd, this is the third year in a row these classes have been run and while the weather may have been inclement it certainly didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the junior stock judges of today. Over twenty participants entered in the classes available with several of the contestants taking the opportunity to enter at least three of the four classes offered.

Participants were from all over the country with one being from the far north- Whangarei and two from the far south - Middlemarch and Balfour, however it was twenty three year James Hoban from Culverden who scooped the pool in three out of four classes. Hoban won the dairy, sheep and fleece classes and when asked why he didn't enter the beef class his comment was "Beef cattle are not my thing."

Winner of the beef class was Ann-Maree Manley from Ireland. Manley is visiting New Zealand for a year to learn about grassland management and took the opportunity to try her hand at the junior judging. Only one point separated Ann-Maree Manley and second place getter John Burrows from Culverden and according to the rules of the competition Burrows will go on to represent New Zealand at the Australasian Junior Judging Competitions.

Both John Burrows and James Hoban will travel to the Royal Melbourne Show next year in September and compete in the respective sections they have won at national level. Burrows has already had a taste of international competition being the winner of last year's Royal New Zealand Show sheep section. This entitled him to compete at the Hobart Royal Show in October this year where he came a very credible second.

According to RAS President Bruce Orr, if the current participants within the RAS junior judging competitions are a general reflection of today's rural youth then we are in good hands. "The ability of these young people and their enthusiasm to compete is heartening indeed and bodes well for the A&P showing movement," said Orr.

The Royal New Zealand Show is the flagship event of the Royal Agricultural Society of New Zealand (national body of the A&P showing movement) and is currently hosted by Canterbury A&P Association. Attracting 120,000 people, over 7000 livestock and feature competition entries and close to 600 trade exhibitors, plus three full days of entertainment, it is the premier agricultural and pastoral event in the country.

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