



RAS Next Generation Survey

2019

Courtney Davies on behalf of the 2018/2019 Rural Ambassadors
and RAS Youth Council

Introductory remarks

Over the past 12 months, the 2018/2019 Rural Ambassadors (with assistance from the past three NZ Rural Ambassadors) have started conversations with exhibitors and agricultural enthusiasts to ask them what they love about showing and why they keep coming back. More often than not we have noticed that these responses have concluded with *"but we would like to see ____"* or *"I would exhibit more often if ____ was in place"*. We wanted to catalogue these answers to build up a database of suggestions, concerns and ideas for improvement right from the grassroots of the movement – the members.

In the middle of April 2019, we selected 10 questions in an aim to get an adequate amount of scope across the country, between RAS Districts as well as ages and disciplines. This survey was initially created to look for ways to improve the next-generation and youth members, however it became apparent given the number of responses and the ages of these people that there were concerns across all age groups and experience levels. Shared far and wide across social media, we received 235 responses, shared 61 times, reaching over 9,100 people with over 1,600 engagements.

We have collated all of these results over the past few months to present a detail report of just what is going on as well as solutions. Whether we agree or disagree, this is what our newer members want and as an organization this is what we should endeavor to achieve.

We hope you are able to take advantage of the wealth of information and ideas within this document. We will be continually updating it as survey responses continue to come in.

Thank you again for all of your help and support.

Survey Questions

Question 1: Are you a current exhibitor or are you involved in any part of the show? NB: if you show cattle and your local shows did not have cattle classes, however you were still interested, please select "Yes".

Question 2: What section do you compete in or associate with? Feel free to select as many that apply to you.

Question 3: What district do you most associate/compete in?

Question 4: What is your age?

Question 5: If you currently DO NOT SHOW or HAVE STOPPED SHOWING please let us know why. Does this include show fees, rules & regulations, competitor behaviour, difficulty communicating with shows, isolation or something else? Please be as detailed as possible. If you DO SHOW please move to question 6 below, however feel free to add any comments you may have. Please keep in mind there is a space to address improvements in question 7.

Question 6: If you currently DO SHOW or plan to START SHOWING, please let us know what attracts you to A&P showing. Is it the social aspect, competition, spending time working/competing with your exhibit, development pathways or something else?

Question 7: If you have shown in the past or are a current competitor, please let us know what we can do to keep you coming back! Do we need more youth competitions (expanding on the Young Judge/Paraders), more connection with

the RAS Executive, establishing a Next Generation council, clinics/workshops, reduced show entry fees or perhaps more inclusion when making decisions? Let us know so we can try to implement these things.

Question 8: Is there anyone you look up to in showing? Perhaps a volunteer, a competitor or a mentor that makes you excited to keep exhibiting? Please let us know who they are so we can continue to encourage them to make a positive difference.

Question 9: If you had the opportunity to send a message to your District's RAS Council, what would you say? We will do our best to make sure your messages are received and read out at the appropriate meetings. Please be honest and constructive.

Question 10: This survey is ANONYMOUS, however if you would like your name/age/district/email address to be added to our Next Generation database, please write these details below so we can keep you up to date with any developments. Thank you for your time filling out this form!

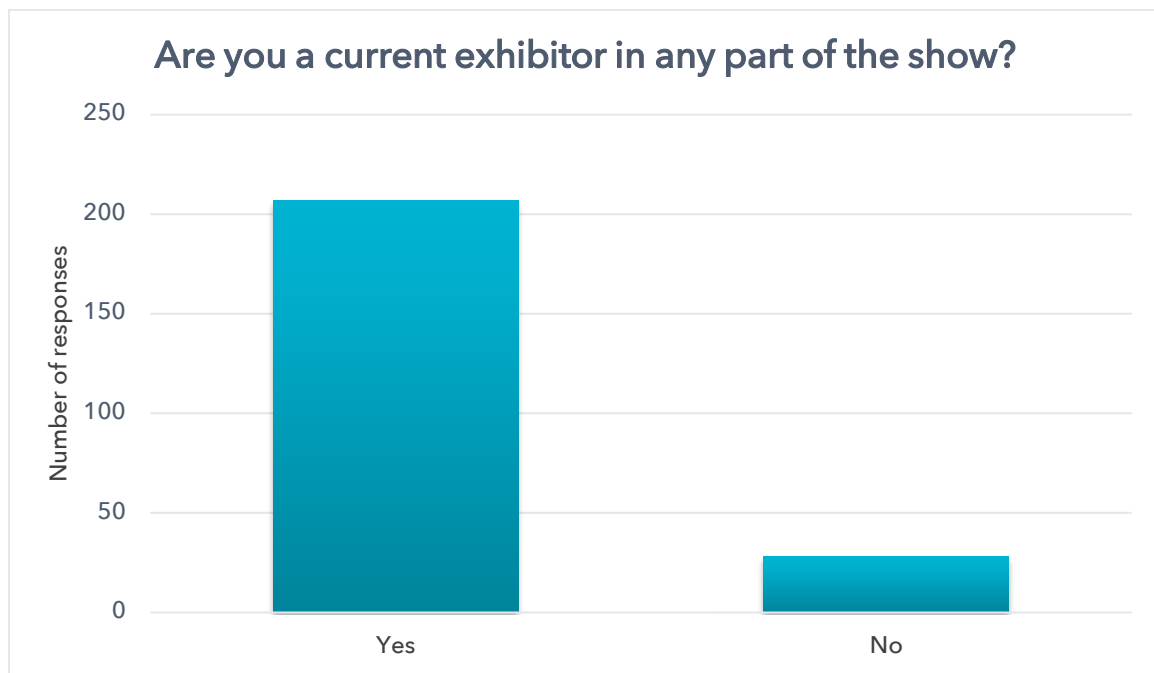
The following information has been made into graphs with statistics used from the 235 responses. Direct quotes were also extracted from this survey and are right-aligned and italicised. These quotes *have not been edited* and are included as an example of direct communication with specific points that may not be emphasized from the overall graphs.



Q1

Are you a current exhibitor or are you involved in any part of the show? NB: if you show cattle and your local shows did not have cattle classes, however you were still interested, please select "Yes".

We wanted to gauge the behavior of the respondents in regard to showing to understand if they are currently showing or have stopped for some reason. More detail was prompted in successive questions.

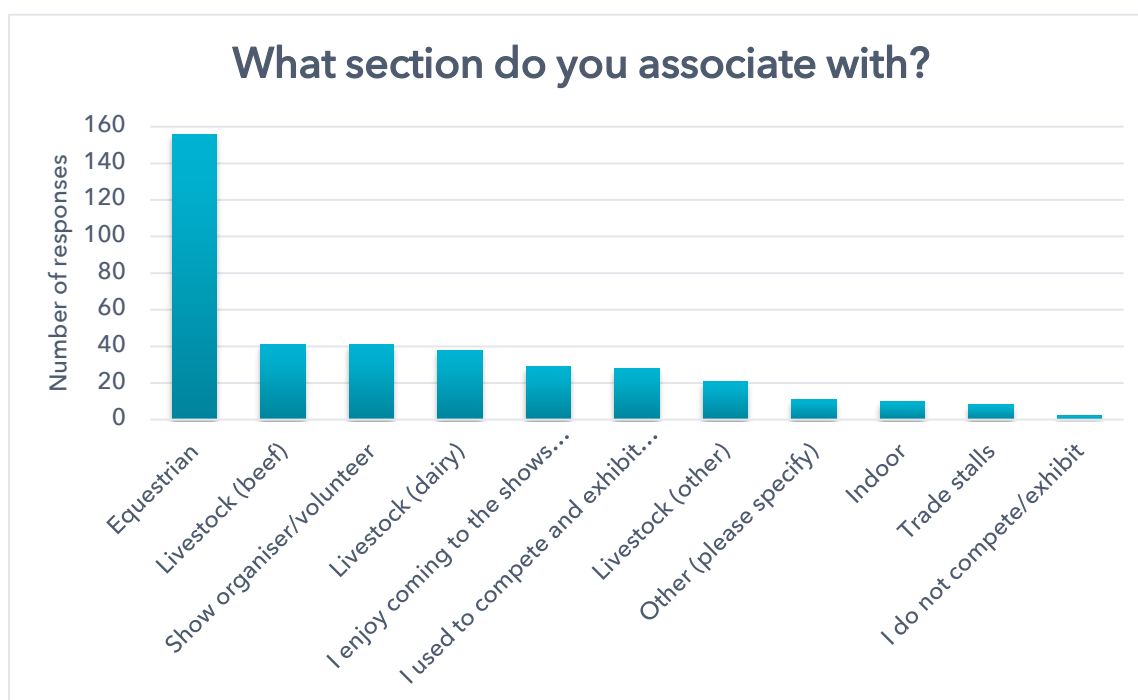


As we would expect, the majority of respondents *do* exhibit (207 compared to 28). This helps us to understand issues that are currently occurring in the showing movement, rather than ideas from a long time ago - which may still arise. Competitors who were actively showing cattle until shows cancelled the cattle ring were encouraged to select Yes.

Q2

What section do you compete in or associate with? Feel free to select as many that apply to you.

It is important to have a range of answers across different sections to know if there are common issues/suggestions or if they relate to a specific section only. If respondents competed in multiple sections, they were encouraged to state this.



As expected, the majority of responses were from those associated with the equestrian section. This poses two questions; 1) do these proportions mirror that of the population and 2) does this mean that certain sections are more vocal/unsatisfied with their section? Livestock (other) mostly included goats.

Equestrian	156	Livestock (other)	21
Livestock (beef)	41	Other	11
Show organizer/volunteer	41	Indoor	10
Livestock (dairy)	38	Trade stalls	8
Enjoy coming to the show	29	I do not compete/exhibit	2
Used to compete	28	<i>Total</i>	385

Q3

What district do you most associate/compete in?

As above, geographical range was important as we wanted to come up with ideas that were suitable across different areas and as a result, many respondents acknowledged existing events or programmes from other districts that they would like to see in their own.



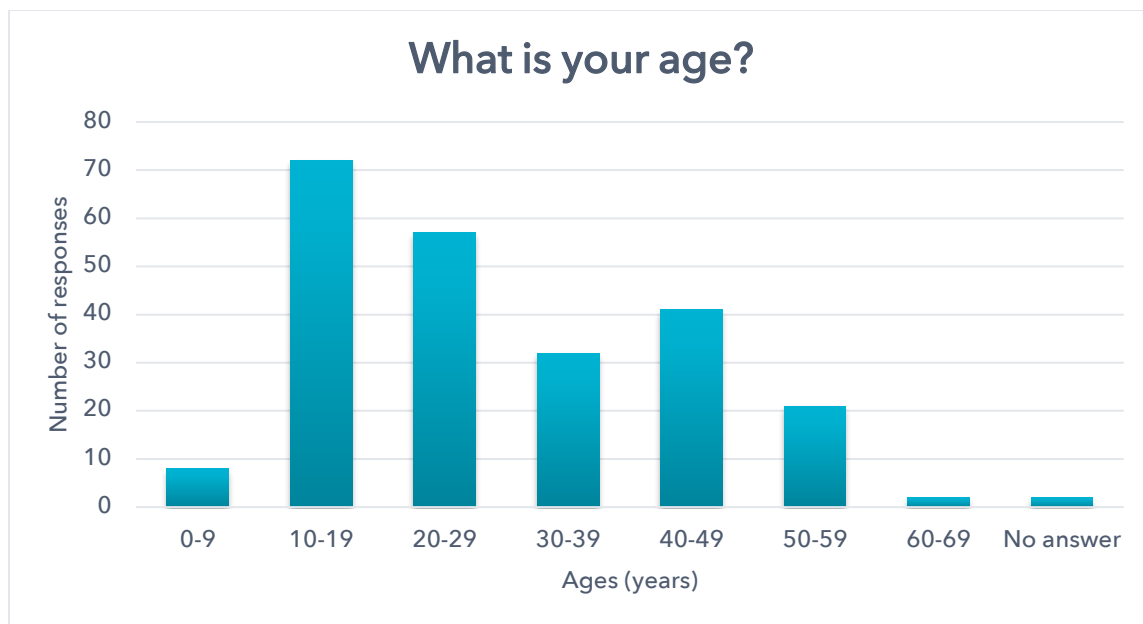
Districts	Number of shows	% of responses	% of shows
Northern	13	13.68	14.47
Mid-Northern	13	13.68	19.57
Western	10	10.53	6.38
Eastern	10	10.53	6.38
Central	31	32.63	25.96
Southern	18	18.95	27.23

The responses did appear to correlate with the number of shows throughout NZ, with the Central and Southern Districts having the largest number of responses (Central: 32.63% of responses with Central District shows making up 25.96% of the national pool).

Q4

What is your age?

Although this survey was targeted towards “youth” or the “next-generation”, anyone who was willing and able to complete the survey was more than welcome. As a result, we did request the respondent to disclose their age in order to help us work out what priorities sat within the youth/next-generation scope.



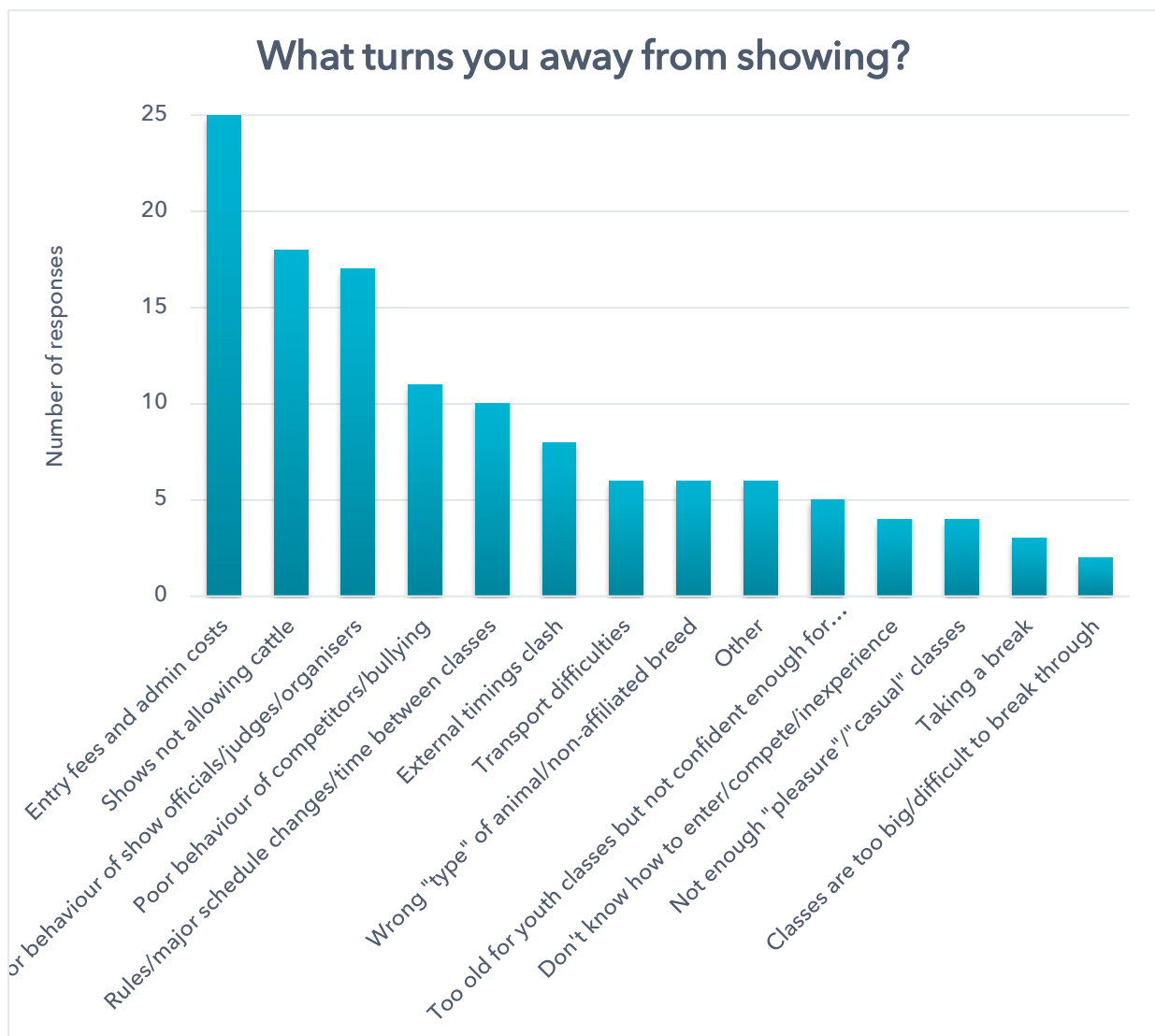
The most responses came from those aged 10-19 (72) followed by the 20-29 age group (57). This slowly decreased as age increased, except for the 40-49 age group, many of whom stated they were answering on behalf of a child. As we have classed “next-generation” as those under 30 years of age, 54.9% of respondents were within this age group. Two respondents did not answer.

Age	% of responses	Age	% of responses
0-9	8	40-49	41
10-19	72	50-59	21
20-29	57	60-69	2
30-39	32	No answer	2

Q5

If you currently DO NOT SHOW or HAVE STOPPED SHOWING, please let us know why. Does this include show fees, rules & regulations, competitor behavior, difficulty communicating with shows, isolation or something else? Please be as detailed as possible. If you DO SHOW please move to question 6 below, however feel free to add any comments you may have. Please keep in mind there is a space to address improvements in question 7.

The first in-depth question aimed to explore why people are not showing. Without knowing the problem there is no way to work out a potential solution and as a result the same things happen with the same outcome, which is undesirable for all involved.



We had 125 responses (out of 235 respondents) from members who wanted to share what puts them off or what they would like to see changed/improved. Naturally, the most common response was that entry fees and administration costs were too high to enter the shows, let alone enter more classes and the prize money did not reflect this (20%). Here are two direct responses from respondents regarding this matter:

"I do think that the entry fees have increased however even if you win all the classes entered you still end up only breaking even. Either increase prize money or decrease entry fees seem to both be realistic."

"I feel that the "Extra" administration fees really sting you at the end. Happy to pay for what needs to be paid for but sometimes it's a bit over the top."

In later questions, competitors mentioned they are happy to pay entry fees but find it ridiculous having to pay entry fees higher than the prize for 1st place, on top of administration levies, ground fees and entrance into the show.

The cancellation of cattle classes was the second most common reason of respondents not attending shows (14%). Several shows including Royal Hawkes Bay Show Kaitaia Show, and Northern Kaipara Show did hold a cattle section that was extremely successful. The respondents understood the decision behind many cancellations, nevertheless the well-run sections at other shows have clearly demonstrated a successful method of managing the *M. bovis* recommendations whilst still hosting a profitable event.

Poor behavior of show officials/judges/organisers (14%) as well as competitors (9%) made up the third and fourth most common answers, respectively. Whilst the first two responses may turn away competitors temporarily, bullying was a response that was a permanent deterrent.

"I used to compete full time and loved it until I started to become good/known. Then I felt I was a target. Wherever I went parents of competitors, competitors and even some organisers/RAS members were very nasty to me. Spread rumours about me, made up false accusations, tried to psych me out before classes etc. every show I went to there was a target on my back to the point where I didn't enjoy it anymore. People were nasty when you worked hard and were good at something. Some officials rigged results or got in judges that they knew were apart of the nasty group towards me. ... So I stopped competing and lack the confidence to know compete again myself even though I would like to."

"Behaviour of show officials manipulating rules and schedules to suit their own personal agendas"

When competitors are more aware of what the complaints process is and when judges become accountable for poor behaviour, perhaps we will be able to encourage some of the competitors back. It can be a real struggle for competitors to have the confidence and support to speak up against someone in high standing if they have been in the wrong, often with the fear of being discriminated at other shows or prevented from development opportunities later on.

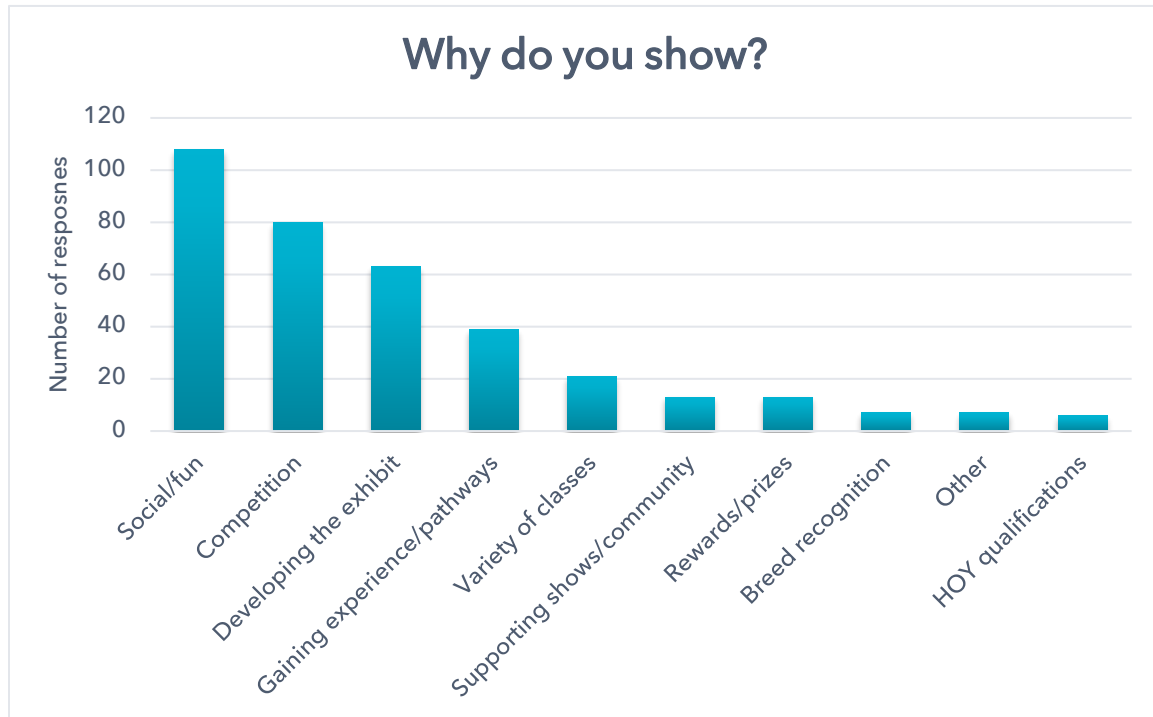
Other options included rules/major schedule changes/times between classes, with competitors frustrated that shows kept changing the schedule of events on the day and having unnecessarily long breaks between classes and other events such as the Grand Parade. External timing clashes included events such as university, work or childcare, that often cannot be avoided. Transport difficulties considered the issue of being able to get to and from shows (as well as meetings), with a proposed solution being a database of competitors willing to share transport or help in similar ways. Some exhibitors felt they had the wrong "type" of animal in the sense that each judge had a personal preference beyond the breed standards and as a result they were unable to fit certain criteria. Another common turn-off was the "youth" in the intermediate age between 18-25 who were too old for classes aimed at young people yet did not have the confidence to enter "open" rings and as a result haven't come back. This was similar to those who would like to see more "pleasure/casual" classes - where the points don't go towards a major show but instead everyone is there for fun and to learn.

Reason for not showing	Number of responses
Entry fees and admin costs	25
Shows not allowing cattle	18
Poor behaviour of show officials/judges/organisers	17
Poor behaviour of competitors/bullying	11
Rules/major schedule changes/time between classes	10
External timings clash	8
Transport difficulties	6
Wrong "type" of animal/non-affiliated breed	6
Other	6
Too old for youth classes but not confident enough for open	5
Don't know how to enter/compete/inexperience	4
Not enough "pleasure"/"casual" classes	4
Taking a break	3
Classes are too big/difficult to break through	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>125</i>

Q6

If you currently DO SHOW or plan to START SHOWING, please let us know what attracts you to A&P showing. Is it the social aspect, competition, spending time working/competing with your exhibit, development pathways or something else?

Naturally we also want to know what existing attraction there is that has drawn in our members and has kept them coming back again.



The majority of respondents said that they enjoy showing because of the comradery and sociality of the A&P movement.

"Meeting up with your show family you dont see too often."

"Enjoyment of livestock, a culture and interest that we are excited to share with our own children."

"My kids and I enter the home industry section and its something fun we do together every year!"

"The social aspect, networking, learning more about cattle and the beef industry."

Secondly, competition is a draw-card towards showing. The respondents enjoy being able to represent their breed and compete against top quality exhibits.

"Good way for judging how I am going with my stud animals."

"The competitive nature and getting to show off your animal as well as catching up with friends and being able to ride with them."

"Our kids love both the social and the competitive aspect. The just like the whole "feel" of being at the show."

It was interesting that some responses included prizes/rewards and HOY qualifications under their "competition" comments, but many did not, instead stating how they enjoy competing alongside friends and the comments they can get to improve their own animals.

This developed into the third and fourth, respectively, statements that competitors enjoyed showing for the opportunity to develop their exhibit as well as some of the development pathways that were available.

"I like to produce a horse and I have a competitive nature. I like to show off the progress of my young horses and I feel a sense of accomplishment when I reach goals."

"Having an opportunity to display the results of our breeding program, interaction with the public (providing education about our breed) and socialising with positive, likeminded people."

"I love the time spent working with my animals, and then the competing and winning a ribbon (doesn't matter what place) because it makes me feel proud of the hard work I put into training the heifer."

"Learning about how to make animals feel comfortable and tame them. Also, the social aspects of it e.g. meeting new people and learning about the different techniques people have. The rewards and results you get as an exhibitor both personally and for the animal are key factors as well."

It is really positive to see the range of different things that attract people to showing and keep them in. There are so many wonderful aspects, therefore it is important to improve on other areas in order to make the overall A&P movement a successful one.

Other responses included the variety of classes that ensured there was often something for everyone, supporting the shows and the idea of bringing the country to town as well as breed recognition and Horse of the Year qualifications, amongst others. It was interesting to see that only 6 of the 357 total responses (some responses had multiple reasons as to why they enjoy showing, hence the total of 357) which equated to a mere 1.68% of the total answer pool stated that the opportunity to qualify for HOY was something that really attracted them.

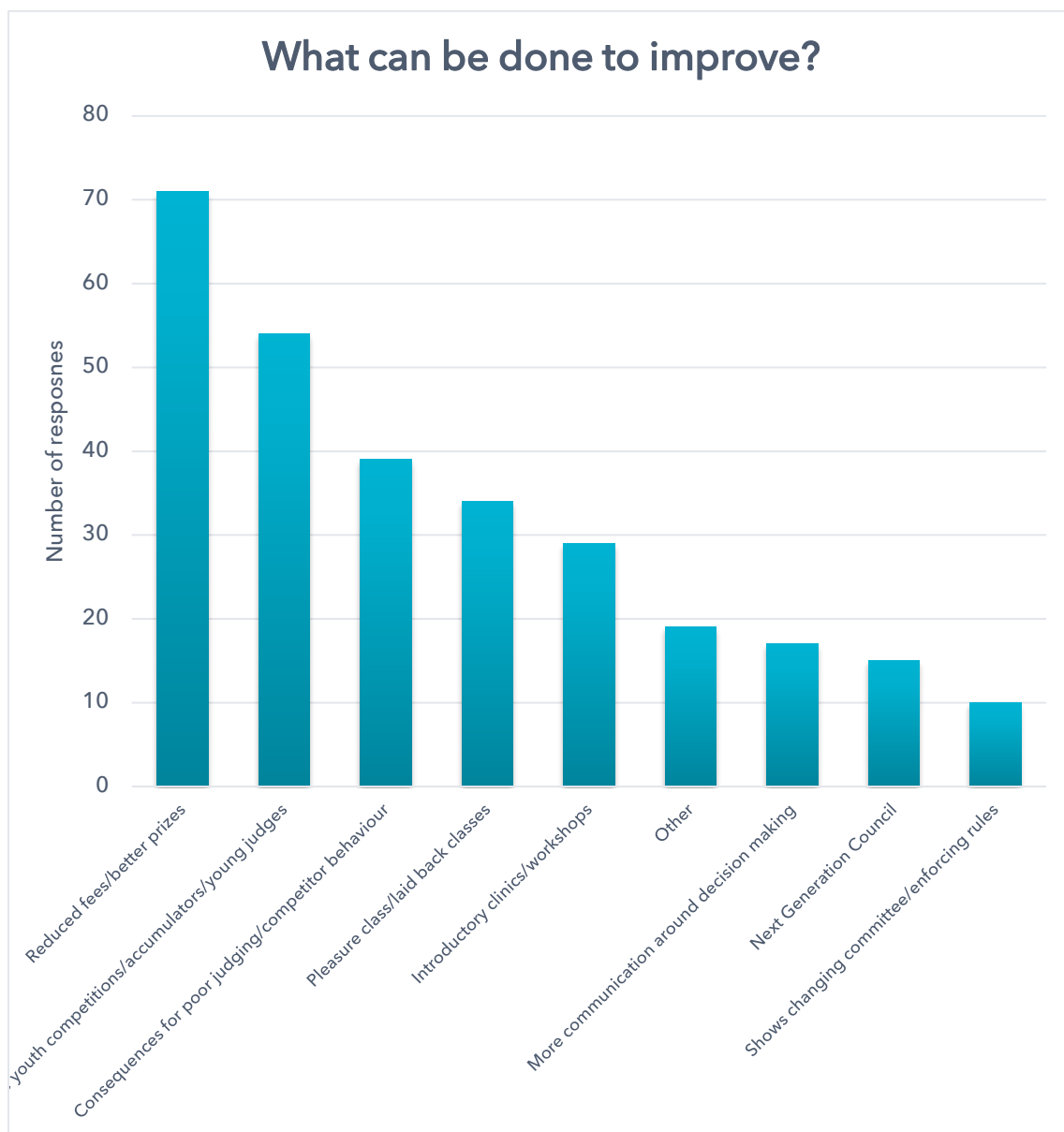
Reason for showing	Number of responses
Social/fun	108
Competition	80
Developing the exhibit	63
Gaining experience/pathways	39
Variety of classes	21
Supporting shows/community	13
Rewards/prizes	13
Breed recognition	7
Other	7
HOY qualifications	6
<i>Total</i>	<i>357</i>



Q7

If you have shown in the past or are a current competitor, please let us know what we can do to keep you coming back! Do we need more youth competitions (expanding on the Young Judge/Paraders), more connection with the RAS Executive, establishing a Next Generation council, clinics/workshops, reduced show entry fees or perhaps more inclusion when making decisions? Let us know so we can try to implement these things.

We have found it very important to ask the members directly for their suggestions and potential solutions to the queries they have raised. Often it is these people who want to be able to put forward a solution but feel it falls on deaf ears.



It was clear that fees were one of the main areas that needed readdressing (24.7%). The competitors understood that this is part and parcel of the viability of the show, however as a customer/member, are not attracted to shows that charge several different types of fees (ground fee, class fee, entry fee and an admin fee) however do not provide the opportunity to make a bit of that back. Many of the responses suggested a more even spread of ribbons too, costing very little to the show to provide ribbons to 4th place which may make it slightly more worth while for competitors (especially those who are younger) to keep coming back.

"Cheaper entry fees or prize money that reflects the entry fees. I chose not to enter Dannevirke horse section because entry fees were going to be \$98 and maximum prize money I could win back was \$60 whereas Horowhenua show cost me \$80 to enter and I won back \$78 and only got one red ribbon."

"Have a capped entry fee. So pay for 5 classes but if you want to compete in other classes they become free."

"Reduced show fees would certainly help. I would happily compete if it was just for a ribbon and no prize money."

"Would enjoy a more even spread of the prize money for some shows, or at least to 4th place ribbon a lot of do 3 in cattle now."

"Reduce costs, more ribbons not just to 4th place"

"More gate passes with entry, both my parents and grandmother enjoy coming to watch and support me at shows. Even at 6am they are there on gate to float parking to take our money."

More youth competitions/accumulators/young judge opportunities followed as the next most popular suggestion (18.8%). It is mentioned at many District Council meetings and RAS Conferences that shows need to do more to involve their youth and next-generation, but where is the evidence of this? We have seen some great initiatives including the Young Judges/Paraders National Finals and an opportunity to represent the RAS in Australia, as well as the RAS Equestrian Youth Squad, however on the day-to-day involvement with the shows, we aren't seeing a lot of young people given associate judging roles or even encouraged into judging, committees or governance

roles within their shows. How can we build the future if we exclude them from these crucial parts?

"I would like to see more youth competition and expanding on the youth Judge (our breed clubs are doing some of this, Black and white Youth and Canterbury Dairy Goat Breeders Association)."

"More pathways with shows that actually include these people. For example, if someone in your district won a judging competition, invite them to your show to be part of the judging committee, or utilise the rural ambassador in your area. Shows do not have the mentality of "community events" or working with other people anymore and are purely profit driven."

"More youth classes would be great. Particularly catering for the 15-20 year old group. Pedigree youth classes and novice classes for first timers."

"More youth events not just in the A&P shows but a camp or weekend to try new things, both dairy and beef but could do goats, poultry."

"Please have more competitions for the youth and maybe a few judging competitions where we learn how to properly judge an animal of each species?"

"We need more youth competitions to get youth RAS out there more."

"Young Judges - like the NPS/BSPS run in the UK."

"Keep up with the variety of classes, don't drop prize money and keep the prizes/accumulators up. If we encourage people to compete in series classes or accumulator classes then they will continue to come so long as prices don't increase."

"The young handlers however it would be good to have some youth classes where you are not competing against more experienced older exhibitors."

"Love to have more opportunity for junior breeders to have a few more classes. By junior I mean people up to say 25 or 30 years old and by classes I mean for example, calf, yearling and cow that is owned and ideally bred by that junior breeder. So not just a handling class, which is also great but also a chance for

up and coming young stud breeders to show their stock, or could call it amateur section which would also open it up for other small breeders to have a chance away from the commercial studs."

These were just a snapshot of some of the ideas that there is clearly a demand for. This is what we should be utilizing the Rural Ambassadors to help organize, promote and volunteer with.

Similarly, not only are the respondents frustrated by the poor behavior of show officials/judges/other competitors, but they want something to be done about it (13.5%). There is a bullying mentality that often prevents competitors from protesting or instigating a "yellow card" process because they are afraid of the personal vendetta that may be held against them. Instances where competitors have been the victim and yet show officials have still banned them from the show because they have only been prepared to listen to one side of the story. This is hardly encouraging for people to speak up against misconduct, is it?

Closely following, the introduction of "pleasure classes" or "laid back" classes were also a common desire (11.8%). However, in this instance it would be important for the District Councils and show committees to speak to their members about the details of these classes and how they could be run in regard to affiliated classes as to align with RAS protocol. Some of the suggestions were around a one-off class for horses that did not have a height certificate (for example) as just a general "fun" class in parallel to the other classes where competitors could qualify for HOY and other such events. For livestock, this may include obstacle course, a "veterans" age group or a "commercial" class for crossbred animals. These animals would not go up against any of the purebred or affiliated animals for the overall awards.

"Or even if there were a separate ring for competitors with a more relaxed vibe. Like a casual open class where adults can still ride their ponies etc. ... I also believe thinking outside of the box and getting a bit creative helps. For example a creative riding class would be awesome. For example I do stunt/trick riding and would an opportunity to show others what it's about."

"we currently just do the pleasure classes but would love to do the around the ring hack classes jumping but think that in some classes that we should get to choose the jump height as we might become a hack but the jump heights are just too big at 90cm. if we had the option of choosing the lower heights we would enter more classes."

"Veterans competition."

"Have heaps more local classes as in the country area your future committees come from your local competitors."

Another popular suggestion was the creation of introductory clinics/workshops, aimed at providing information to the next generation of exhibitors who did not know where to begin in order to send their entries in for a show, how to select a "good" animal, what the judge may be looking for or even ring etiquette and where to go on show day (10%).

"Clinics and workshops which are advertised better for the younger generation especially to become a judge etc"

"More education opportunities, workshops/camps for young people."

"Clinics/workshops would help those wishing to start or return to showing (equestrian)"

"Easier way to understand the rules. It seems there are a number of rules that are hard to find. An information pack for newbies would be really useful (digital!) as would maps of the Showgrounds. Sometimes one of the hardest things is finding your ring if you haven't been to that show before."

"I think clinics/workshops are an excellent idea. I know thats a massive drawcard for the equidays."

There are many breeders who do not show simply because they do not know where to begin, especially if not from a farming/breeding background whose families may not have shown themselves. As a result, these potential members lack the ability to know how to make the first connection, the first conversation to work out where to go next.

Other remaining suggestions included more communication around decision making that concerns the exhibitor members (5.9%), a Next-Generation Council (5.2%) which happens to already be in the making as well as shows changing their committees and "freshening up" their processes (3.5%).

These are all valid and achievable solutions.

Q8

Is there anyone you look up to in showing? Perhaps a volunteer, a competitor or a mentor that makes you excited to keep exhibiting? Please let us know who they are so we can continue to encourage them to make a positive difference.

Just like A&P showing, recognizing success and excellence is key to creating something to strive towards achieving. Therefore, encouraging these respondents to put forward the name of a role model or perhaps someone who has demonstrated values that align with the RAS is important for encouraging these members along. Below is a list of all of the names of individuals and families that we recognized. Many were nominated multiple times.

Adele Hillas	Claire Wilson	Karen Woolley	Ray Messervy
Adrianne Lil-Hey	Collin family	Kay Worthington	Richard Van-Ash
Alan Windle	Courtney Davies	Kristen Russell	Rob Hall
Alayna Harris	Crystal Scown	Lily Moss	Ron Baker
Alex Berry	Dave Wylie	Linda Wood	Rosalie Bakker
Alison Fearn	David Wood	Lisa Birthold	Rosie Grimsey
Allie Harper	Dean Geddes	Lorraine Youngman	Sharla Cochrane
Amanda Butson	Dorothy Lennard	Lucy Collin	Sharon Kooter
Amanda Gordon	Gabrielle Cashmore	Mandy Phillips	Simeon Cook
Amy Baker	Geoff Smith	Maree Milliken	Sonia Gibbins
Andrew Duff	Georgia Whitworth	Marie Timperley	Sue Reynolds
Angela Rogers	Hamish Grant	Mavis Harris	Tayla Hansen
Ann Ferriman	Hannah Gibb	Melissa Jebson	Tim Barclay
Anna Hjorth	James Wallace	Mike Langtry	Tina Macnab
Becks Nairn	Janelle Shaw	Muggeridge family	Tom Burrows
Belinda Harris	Johanne Kahlenberg	Nancy Crawshaw	Tony Partridge
Ben Burgess	Jonathan	Nancy Gardiner	Tracey Nolan
Betty Lennard	Carden-Holdstock	Natasha Otto	Trudy Robertson
Cadwallader family	Judith Johnson	Nicci Crowe	Vanessa Everton
Cara Doggett	Judy Johnson	Nicki Hutchison	Waddell family
Carol Dawson	Julie Pirie	Peter Gardiner	Warren Ferguson
Carol Moore	Julie Wilson	Peter Hill	Wendy Harker
Chris Herbert	Julianne Baynes	Phil Worthington	Zoe Botha
Christine Beatson	Karen Allen	Powell family	

Q9

If you had the opportunity to send a message to your District's RAS Council, what would you say? We will do our best to make sure your messages are received and read out at the appropriate meetings. Please be honest and constructive.

Similarly, asking if any of the respondents had a constructive message for their RAS District Council helps us to build a stronger relationship between the members and the councils, as some answers to previous questions suggested that the competitors were unaware of what the point of the councils actually were.

We had a lot of variety in answers, therefore several of the comments listed are attached below.

"Breed classes are still very important for us to have at Ag shows but we need to have appropriate judges who have the knowledge to do a good job. An improvement on youth involvement is critical. I have two young children that are just starting out to with Riding."

"Communication. Needs to be more communication so everyone knows what is going on. Facebook etc to connect/attract young people."

"Consistent judging and organisation are needed to allow shows to run smoothly. Make sure no children are put off by adult opinions. Just because someone does something differently, doesn't mean they are doing it wrong. Have more teaching days and cattle camps. Adults should not be yelling at other people's children."

"Encourage youth judging. Perhaps compulsory re-sit of judging exams every 5-10 years? Just to make sure everyone is on continuing on the correct path."

"For honest judging and everyone to follow the same rules. It is very corrupt especially when a judge says to you. Sorry cant give it to you today as you have had too much this season.. some older judges have been great on there day - maybe need a retirement age. Harder penalties for people that cheat."

"For the future of the sport encourage the kids, have ribbons for all entries. And clean up judges."

"Get rid of the grumpy old people running the shows and get some new blood in to run them."

"Have more youth on the board and around the local A&P shows to be able to keep them going."

"Hold a trading [training] session for show stewards so they know what they r expected to do on the day. Otherwise it is too daunting."

"Huge thanks for well run shows."

"I feel the central district is doing really well with their beef youth classes and would applaud them and the team that organise the shows they do a great job with little or no recognition. The Canterbury a&p show has a great youth section that has continued to grow over the years thanks to some very committed breeders and committee members getting involved with their local schools."

"I think maybe our council should would [work] together to put on some youth events."

"I think you need to focus on one or 2 aspects and get something exciting that the age range of show committees wants to get involved."

"I wish the yellow card system was used more as it might stop some of the bullying."

"In the sheep & beef sections the shows are professionally run with like minded people and are a friendly and are an encouraging day for families to exhibit their animals and enjoy the company of others . The judges are selected from well respected people within their fields who are deemed to have the ability to identify quality animals and place them accordingly."

"Including older ages 18+ when possible into classes as the regulars are getting older, fun classes."

"Keep having the fun classes that bring out the not-so-serious locals - we shouldn't have to travel for hours to get to a show that holds the fun stuff, we

need it at home! South Westland show is awesome, spread that model far and wide!"

"Keep running youth classes, bring in that next age group, or an amateur division so the youth don't have to always compete against the big commercial people."

"LISTEN TO YOUR YOUNG PEOPLE! If something has been done the same way for years, try to change it! If it doesn't work, just go back, but try to develop and move forward."

"Looks after the junior judges more. If they're invited to be associate etc .. make sure they are taken care of. Run educational workshops similar to what breed associations do for those who want to learn and make these assessable to everyone. Schedules between breeds and animals align so can participate in youth sections of more than one section eh dairy can judge sheep too."

"Maybe asked for feedback before putting the schedule together."

"More local workshops for younger kids."

"Most people do not even know what you do or what the point of the council is."

"Move with the times."

"myself and many of my fellow competitors would just like to compete on an even playing field we feel the drug testing all supreme ridden will help to achieve this."

"Our northern district competition is great."

"Please continue what you are doing, it is very enjoyable showing, and thank you for the work you are doing for us."

"Please ensure that your section organisers are working in the interests of your show and the RAS - not for their own personal agendas. If you have past competitors now avoiding your show, ask them why - you may be very disappointed to hear their responses!"

"Please make info more readily available especially for those who may be wanting to get into it for the first time."

"Ras rules need to be put in force and checked, ie correct jumps and consistent judging."

"Reduce the registration and entry costs. I am sure more would enter IF these were manageable."

"Shows need to ensure that stewards/section organisers are not able to manipulate schedules /implement rules to suit their own agendas. Entries suffer as a result of this - Franklin Show Beef Cattle entries were not down due to MBovis, but because of actions of section organiser."

"Small councils with people who want to make a difference in other areas beside equestrian. Encourage go getter people onto Councils rather than same old faces that have been there for years and accomplished very little. Fresh new ideas are needed even if everybody doesn't always agree, look outside the square."

"Southern District- we wish you would work together with those interested and involved with the showing movement. There has been an incredible amount of negativity from our district and we want to move forward rather than dwelling on this. Let's work on things to promote the movement rather than getting stuck on negative points."

"Thank you for all the hard work and dedication around youth and youth events."

"Thanks for doing a great job. I found especially northern district is very active and good. Waikato area one not as much and they don't really associate with dairy, only equestrian."

"Thanks very much for everything you do! We would love it if you could consider things from a newbies perspective sometimes. It's really hard to get into showing and finding out all the registrations you need and rules - which is off putting for a lot of newbies."

"The Invercargill show had loud bands on during the equestrian section which was scaring a few horses which is dangerous for riders."

"To be honest I have no idea what RAS does at shows and I compete in over 20 shows per year and have never seen and RAS executives and feel that in the youth department of the shows they could become more involved."

"To have more involvement with youth and to encourage the animal husbandry within agriculture in educational ways."

"Train more judges! Retire the sour faced old judges and get judges that have a kind word for everybody. Even a sincere "Good Try" would be a bonus. Make eye contact with the rider and smile."

"We appreciate your time and effort!! Making sure things are fair and even across the board is the best way to keep people showing."

"We go to 12-14 shows a year and I do not know anyone from RAS. I'm not sure what RAS does for young exhibitors."

"We love the A&P show and we participate every year! I just feel there needs to be more advertising. Flyers given out at markets etc to get more people involved. Young blood maybe to get some fresh ideas out there and get more people coming each year."

"we would really like to have the Dairy Goats re-instated at Whangarei Show as this is our home show and everything else is a long way for us to travel so we don't take many goats. We would take 2 trailers and 2 cars to the local show."

"Why should equestrian competitors also pay an entry fee is we are also the entertainment at the show. It's all just getting too expensive. Ends up costing well over \$100 to enter 2 or 3 classes which only pay \$10 first place! Crazy!"

"Your doing a really good job with what your given, I applaud your efforts."

"You do a fantastic job."

"You guys do a amazing job."

Overall, the feedback was relatively positive, with many suggestions on how to improve, which align with the feedback provided from question 7. Some of the suggestions that came up repeatedly, included more youth involvement and fresh ideas on councils and in show committees. Think about how you can include your youth to enhance your showing movement as well as at the district level. Another common suggestion was to include young people as junior judges, associate judges and encouraging them to sit their judging certificate. Thirdly, more transparency and knowledge around the RAS would help many competitors. This is a great opportunity for shows and district councils to work together to share information and ensure that competitors are fully informed about the RAS movement, such as the aims, any important dates and opportunities for progression within the show societies and overall RAS.



Q10

This survey is ANONYMOUS, however if you would like your name/age/district/email address to be added to our Next Generation database, please write these details below so we can keep you up to date with any developments. Thank you for your time filling out this form!

For respondents who wanted to stay up to date with any developments around the scope of the youth/next-generation movement, they were encouraged to leave their contact details. Alternatively, for members who did not want to attach their names, they had the option of separately contacting the RAS Youth NZ Facebook page and sending their information through there. Because anonymous opinions can sometimes be malicious and unconstructive, any indication of an uncouth response that was not aligned with the RAS strategy and vision, these responses were discarded, and no further engagement was to be carried out. Fortunately, this did not occur.

It is very important to be vigilant and careful when using social media to promote a show, provide information or celebrate success, as there will often be people who demonstrate their disdain inappropriately. We recommend exercising caution, nevertheless it is important to share and celebrate positive outcomes in each of the showing districts. For more information, feel free to follow, "Like" and share the following pages to keep up to date with the RAS Youth/Next-Generation movement.

RAS Youth NZ	www.facebook.com/RasYouthNz/
RAS Northern	www.facebook.com/NorthernRASYouth/
RAS Mid-Northern	www.facebook.com/groups/146686825673304/
RAS Western	www.facebook.com/westerndistrictrasyouth/
RAS Eastern	www.facebook.com/Eastern-District-RAS-Youth-246762652898545/
RAS Central	www.facebook.com/Canterbury-Youth-Showing-1492771500811251/
RAS Southern	www.facebook.com/southernrasyouth/
RAS Equestrian Youth Squad	www.facebook.com/RAS-Equestrian-Youth-Squad-466873637388747/
RAS General group	www.facebook.com/groups/1082139361828917/

Further contact: Contact Next-Generation Executive portfolio holder, Courtney Davies, at rasnextgeneration@gmail.com and send through your contact details to be added to the Next-Generation database for further contact and regular updates.

Thank you!

Thank you again for taking the time to complete this survey and be part of the change. We had an incredible 235 responses, brimming with creative and practical ideas that can reinvigorate and revitalize the RAS showing movement in New Zealand, especially for the Youth/Next-Generation portfolio.

We encourage you to keep sharing this survey far and wide – you never know what creative idea may lie in the mind of the young person you ride your pony with, the girl who came 4th with her pet lamb or the boy who enjoys baking for the home industries section. It is important to listen to these voices and take their suggestions to your shows and District Councils. The RAS is a member-driven organization, after all.

To the shows who are already implementing these changes, you are fantastic! We applaud and appreciate the direction you are taking, all the while acknowledging the time and ideas that have come from the councils of yester-year. It is true that our shows wouldn't be the success they currently are, if not for those who walked before us, nevertheless we must act soon to ensure the shows and all that the RAS believes in, continues to drive excellence, sustainability and innovation.

Please get in touch with us if you would like the appendix of raw data in the form of all of the commented responses for questions 5, 6, 7 and 9. We will be more than happy to provide these to back up the claims presented in this report.

Thank you again.

