

## **4-H Inter-County Dairy Calf Show 2009 at the Lincoln County Fair**

By Ann Marie Chechalk

The 4-H Intercounty Dairy show is an annual event held each year at the Lincoln County fair. After the first week of school that Saturday is always where clubs from Ancaster, Bertie, Flamborough, Haldimand, North Niagara, Rainham, Thorold and Wainfleet come with their calves to compete in conformation, showmanship and herdsman classes. This year a new sponsor Kubota Canada is supporting the monetary winnings of these finely dressed showman and their groomed calves, recognizing the hard work that each 4-H member puts into the training and grooming of their project over the spring and summer. The weather turned out perfectly for the participants and the audience and award presenters. Could there be a more wonderful place to spend a sunny day then enjoying the sights, sounds and competition at the Lincoln County Fair on Saturday September 12, 2009?

This year's astute judge Glen Barkey traveled from Blackstock, Ontario to spend the day with the enthusiastic members.

Novices of ten and eleven years of age enter the showing first. Calmly and capably they walk their well groomed animals all the while keeping an eye on the judge. The top first and second place showmen Rebecca Arth of Ancaster and Kaitlyn Haalstra of Rainham will return to compete for Grand Champion Showperson later in the show. Next the Juniors from twelve to fourteen years of age bring their animals in to the ring. Ashley Young from the Haldimand Club places first for the second year in a row and Julia Romagnoli from the North Niagara Dairy Calf Club places second. They now get a short break to relax as the senior members enter the show ring. These members fifteen to twenty one years of age have spent many years in 4-H honing their showing skills and learning to calm their nerves and their calves while doing the best job possible before the attentive judge. Mr. Barkey takes his time as he must choose the top two from an outstanding group of 4-H showmen. Finally he selects Chantal Stoop from the Wainfleet Dairy Calf Club and Kristen DeVries also from Wainfleet to return for the last showmanship class of Grand Champion.

The six competitors enter the show ring once again. All calves are being led slowly; all eyes are on the judge. Glen Barkey chooses the 2009 Grand Champion Showperson at the Lincoln County 4-H Inter-County show to be Chantal Stoop and Kristen DeVries receives the honour of Reserve Champion Show Person. John McDougall and family sponsor the trophy for the deserving showman.

Judge Barkey informs the audience that it is Chantal's smooth symmetry with the calf and her ability to watch the judge at all times that has earned her this well deserved reward.

Although the next classes are conformation classes and the judge is now looking at the calves and not the showman, a skilled showperson sets his calf up so the judge can see to their best advantage all the conforming qualities of a well grown animal.

The first and second place winners of the Junior Heifer calf class born between March 1, 2009 to May 31, 2009 were Christina Dykstra with Haws Oreo Outside and Deanna Ringelberg with Fennema Gibson Arianna.

The first and second place winners of the Intermediate Heifer Calf class born between December 1, 2008 and February 28, 2009 were Julia Romagnoli with Dymenthalm Charisma Regal and Chantal Stoop with Speirdyke Maryann Magot.

The first and second place winners of the Senior Heifer Calf class, born between September 1, 2008 and November 30, 2008 were Brendan McDougall showing Haws Travista Toystory and Ashley Young showing Rockledge Prissy Lyndon.

The first and second place winners of the Summer Yearling class, born between June 1, 2008 and August 31, 2008 were Brad Fledderus showing Abbylayne Goldwyn Tasha and Matthew Pot showing Devans Page Diana.

The first and second place winners of the Junior Yearling class, born between March 1, 2008 and May 31, 2008 were Cody Oughtred and Leah Shuurman showing Providence Allen Carissa Luxury. The first and second place winners from each class return to the showing.

The Grand Champion Calf is "is to be commended for her well balance and correctness and today will be Dymenthalm Charisma Regal. The Reserve Champion Calf commended by Judge Barkey for her openness of rear rib will be Speirdyke Maryann Magot. Gerald Freure and Sons of Wellandport present the trophy to a smiling Julia Romagnoli. Chantal Stoop receives the Award for Reserve Grand Champion Calf.

The Best Group of Four Calves and the Nello Romagnoli Trophy is taken home by the North Niagara 4-H Club followed closely by the Haldimand West 4-H Calf Club.

In the Herdsman Competition the first place winner is Bertie Calf Club. They receive a Rosette and cash prize from the Lincoln Agricultural Society.

Judge Glen Barkey thanks the 4-H members, “for working together as a team and bringing out a strong group of quality calves.” “I would also like to thank all the 4-H leaders for getting the clubs here today,” and asked the audience to congratulate all the participants and leaders with a round of well deserved applause.