

Manitoba 4-H StockFest Announces Speakers and Seminar Topics

July 2010

When the 3rd annual edition of the Manitoba 4-H StockFest happens in Brandon, participants will have numerous opportunities to learn more about their livestock project. Happening September 24-26 at the Kinsmen Arena in the Keystone Centre, StockFest is the provincial show that brings all 4-H livestock projects together. Although geared to livestock projects, the event is open to all 4-H members.

Since StockFest is a fairly new initiative, organizers continue to work together to provide the best format for the weekend's activities. Last year's evaluations offered many excellent ideas and some of those are reflected in the schedule for this year. Diane Kovar is the Chairperson for StockFest. She's very pleased with the workshops and speakers that have been arranged for this year. "Many of the parents told us last year that we needed more hands-on learning opportunities, plus workshops more suited to the younger members. I think we've accomplished that." She said. For the horse club members those hands-on workshops include a session on Safe Horse Handling by Robert Moshenko, plus Equine Nutrition presented by Jocelyn Kish. There will also be sessions related to Equine Marketing and Photography. The beef and dairy cattle and sheep members will be able to learn about showmanship, marketing and photography as well. And sessions will be held over the weekend showing how to fill out judging cards and how to judge the different species. StockFest will in fact choose senior members to attend Agribition in Regina in 2011 to represent Manitoba in the national judging competition.

The weekend isn't all "work" however. There will be ice-breakers and group activities Friday evening, along with a banquet on Saturday evening. Saturday and Sunday will offer horse shows, while Saturday beef and dairy cattle and the sheep will take to the show ring. The weekend wraps up with the Supreme Showmanship competition where the top members compete against each other showing not only their only animal, but one of each of the other livestock. Kovar says this was one of the highlights of last year's show. "The showmanship competition was especially fun to watch when the members were showing animals they're not very familiar with. We had a few sheep get loose, but overall the members learned a lot and came to appreciate what it takes to show another species."

The registration deadline for this year's StockFest is August 31. Forms are available on the 4-H website: www.4h.mb.ca. For further information, please contact Diane Kovar at (204) 571-0854.