



For Immediate Release
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Excitement for Collegiate Judges

DALLAS, TX – The animals were evaluated, the reasons presented, scores tabulated and last night at the awards banquet in the Sheraton Hotel, the winners of the collegiate livestock judging contest were announced.

There were over 230 competitors from 16 colleges and universities representing five states that took part in this year's contest.

The Farm Credit Bank of Texas was the corporate sponsor for the event. Vice President of Corporate Relations, Stan Ray, gave a few remarks about the benefits of judging and farm credit.

“At Farm Credit, we encourage people to walk through our door every day with an attitude of leadership,” Ray said.

Ray went on to commend the contestants for their efforts in agriculture.

There were three divisions: novice junior college, professional junior college and senior college. A team is comprised of five individuals, both individual and team awards are given on a specie specific and overall basis.

Graham Blagg of Redlands Community College was named high individual for the novice junior college division. Additionally, the team was high team, placing first in every specie category as well as reasons.

“It was a pretty good day, all the way through, for our whole team,” Blagg said.

In the professional division, Blinn College took first. Team member, Clay Morrison, said they were excited to see their hard work starting to payoff.

A battle of the Texans took place in the senior college division. Texas Tech inched out Texas A&M for first place.

“It was a long day and a very thought provoking contest,” said Josh Flohr of Texas Tech University. “You just had to be a very good stockman.”

There were twelve classes, comprised of four animals each. Novice division contestants gave six sets of oral reasons, or justifications, and the professional and senior divisions gave eight.

Judges, or officials, set placings for the classes, this is the standard to which the contestants are compared. It's these same individuals who listen to reasons and award points based on the accuracy and quality of the set.

The points are tallied and the highest score wins.

“As a former judge myself, I know it's a worthwhile, life changing experience; getting to travel and meet people with similar interests,” said Blinn livestock coach, Brant Poe.

Krista Anderson

Oklahoma State University