For Immediate Release

Horse Roundup showcases excellence in equine contest

by Regan Emkes

LOUISVILLE, KY – November 9, 2014 – The 2014 Eastern National 4-H Horse Roundup awards ceremony showcased a number of excellent 4-H individuals in the nation’s equine industry. Two-hundred and ninety three contestants competed from twenty-four states this weekend at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in the areas of hippology, public speaking, presentations, horse bowl and horse judging. The top ten contestants from each category, and 230 team and individual awards were presented.

The hippology contest tests overall knowledge of the horse. Contestants are evaluated on everything from horse anatomy and physiology to breeds, disciplines and equipment, and everything in between. They take a written exam, move around to live stations to identify and explain different horse parts and equipment, participate in horse judging, and work in a team to answer a question and present it to judges. Awards were presented to top 10 teams and individuals in the written phase, judging phase, station phase, and the problem solving phase. The 2014 overall hippology contest individual winner was Anna Ahlers, of North Carolina. The top overall team was from Ohio.

Next presentations of awards were for public speaking and presentation contests. 4-H Horse Public Speaking was judged on subject knowledge, presentation skills, and individual completion of the topic. Top ten individuals in the Jarrett Cordeiro, of Massachusetts, was the winner of the public speaking contest.

Contestants involved in the presentation competition were judged much like the public speaking contest, but their contest was based on presentation of a new idea or on how to accomplish something in the horse industry. Winning contestants were Makhaela Young, of Indiana, with “Decorating a Clydesdale” for the Horse Individual Presentation; Maura Palumbo and Lindsey Stimson, of Oregon, for the Horse Team Presentation with “Equine Country Kitchen.” North Carolina was the winner of the State Communications Team Award and received a traveling trophy from the Florida 4-H Horse Program.

The Roundup also recognized those contestants excelling in the horse bowl contest. This “quiz bowl” all about horses awarded high individuals and teams based on a bracket style, double elimination tournament. Kate Wright, of Missouri, was the top individual in the horse bowl and the top team recognized was from Maryland.

Judging both in-hand and under-saddle classes was a requirement for the horse judging competition. Contestants judged a total of eight classes and received points for how closely their (more)
judging numbers matched those of the official judges. Each team is then asked to present to the judges to justify their placement of the classes. Awards were presented to top 10 individuals in each the conformation, performance and oral reasons categories. The overall individual winner was Kim Fiore of Florida and the overall winning team was North Carolina.

The awards breakfast also included remarks from Kent Sturman from the Pro Rodeo Hall of Fame, in which he said, “I wouldn’t be who I am without 4-H and the lessons I learned throughout involvement in equine competitions.” Kent also went on to talk about how 4-H has served over 7 million youth worldwide and is in more than 3,068 counties in the United States, in 71 countries, with over 3,500 educators, 532,000 volunteers, and 60 million alumni.

Outstanding contestants received trophies, plates, and scholarships from 23 sponsors. Each high overall individual was awarded a $500 scholarship from the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA). AQHA also supplied trophies to top individuals in the hippology and horse judging contests. The NAILE supplied all coach’s, reserve, and top ten individual plaques, as well as silver trays and ribbons.

Other sponsors of awards included the Arabian Horse Association, the American Saddlebred Horse Association, and Noble Outfitters for the individual and team prizes at the ceremony.

Excitement was felt all throughout the room as the hard work and dedication of 4-H members was recognized. Ashley McCarter, a contestant from South Carolina said, “4-H empowers youth. 4-H’s motto is to make the best better, and that’s exactly what it does. This organization teaches you to step up and be the leaders for a better tomorrow and it isn’t just for the equine industry, it impacts all industries that we’re involved in.”

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