

The Ultimate Test: the National Western Stock Show's Wool Judging Contest

Last month at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), 55 university students from across the U.S. were inducted into the sheep and wool industry. The students spent 6 months learning about our industry, trained for wool judging and were able to demonstrate their new found knowledge on January 14 at the NWSS Collegiate Wool Judging Contest in Denver, CO.

Skills were put to the test. Contest Officials Mike Corn, Frank Craddock, Jonathan Despain and Laura Pierce scored the students on how well they were able to judge commercial, breed and handspinning classes, defend their placings by giving reasons and evaluate the characteristics of 15 fleeces.

The Awards Ceremony later the same night began with Peter Orwick of ASI talking of his talents as a young man in the Wool Judging Contests. This inspiring address showed the students that these very contests and experiences can help you get to the very top. Tom Fey was the man of honor for his continuous work and dedication to the Contest and wool industry. Additionally, Sharon Vair of Vair's Var-iety was recognized as Supporting Producer of the Year.

Champion Individual: Kyrsten Gibson, Angelo State University

Reserve Champion Individual: Ivie Mynatt, Texas Tech University

Champion Team: Texas Tech University

Reserve Champion Team: Angelo State University

Handspinning- High Team: Texas A&M University

Handspinning- High Individual: Makenna Lea, Texas A&M University

Reasons- High Individual: Kyle Ramsey, Texas A&M University

Reasons- High Team: Texas Tech University

Placings- High Individual: Macye Boyd, Angelo State University

Placings- High Team: Texas Tech University

Grading- High Individual: Kyrsten Gibson, Angelo State University

Grading- High Team: Texas Tech University

For more results, please visit www.judgingcard.com and search "National Western Wool Judging Competition" on January 14, 2016.

You can help...

Your fleeces could be featured in the Contest! Consider allowing the use of your fleeces; both commercial and handspinning fleeces of all grades and types are needed. Please contact Heather Pearce, Contest Superintendent, to arrange details: (720)254-6289 or hollyhocksfiber@gmail.com.