2014 MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
4-H BEEF SHOW JUDGES

4-H Beef Show Judge --- Bryan Kutz

Bryan Kutz is from West Fork, Arkansas. Since 1997, he has served as an Instructor and Youth Animal Science Extension Specialist at the University of Arkansas. He has also served as the General Livestock Judging Team Coach at the University of Arkansas since 1997. Bryan began his college career at Northeast Oklahoma A & M University, and was a member of the General Livestock Judging Team. He then went on to Oklahoma State University, and was a member of the collegiate judging team while there. He received a BS. Degree at Oklahoma State University, and later received a M.S. degree from Western Kentucky University. He also served as the General Livestock Team Coach while at Western Kentucky. He has served as Show Judge for numerous National Shows and State Fair Beef Shows across the U.S. in recent years.

4-H Dairy Steer Judge --- Dar Giess

Dar Giess is a cattle breeder from Pierz, Minnesota. Dar and his family have raised purebred South Devon and Hereford based cattle since locating at their current location in 1984. They currently have a herd of 200 beef cows, selling their offspring to both purebred cattle breeders and commercial producers. Dar grew up on a Hereford ranch in Western Kansas, and was quite active in showing cattle while growing up. The purebred South Devon cattle shown by Dar’s family have consistently been in the “winner’s circle” at 4-H and youth beef shows, as well as at National South Devon Shows. Dar is currently President of the Minnesota State Cattleman’s Association, and serves on the Executive Board for the Minnesota Beef Expo. He has judged numerous Beef Cattle Shows at many State Fairs and other major shows across the U.S.

4-H Beef Showmanship Judge --- Cory Greiman

Cory and Sis Greiman own Greiman Cattle Company, which is a diverse row and beef cow/calf operation, located near Garner, Iowa. They raise registered Angus, Limousin, and Maine Anjou cattle, as well as raising club calves. The Greiman Family, which includes their children, Morgan and Zach, enjoy showing cattle at the Iowa State Fair, as well as at National and Regional Beef Cattle Shows. Cory is a graduate of Iowa State University. He has judged numerous Cattle Shows in the Upper Midwest in recent years, including the Minnesota State Fair and the Minnesota Beef Expo.
2014 Minnesota State Fair
4-H Dairy Judges

Bob Hagenow – Judge of Registered Holsteins
Bob grew up on a dairy farm in Manitowoc County, WI and graduated with a BS in Dairy Science in 1985 from UW Madison participating in the Badger Dairy Club and in the judging program. He spent 2 years as an area representative and classifier for the National Brown Swiss Association after college. Since 1987, he has been employed by Vita Plus Corporation, a regional feed company based in Madison, Wisconsin. At Vita Plus, he works as a nutrition consultant on farms, supervise/coach several salespeople, and works with several key manufacturing sites in Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois. Bob has spent numerous years coaching county 4-H teams, serves as assistant superintendent at World Dairy Expo, and judges numerous shows throughout the Midwest every year along with volunteering in several university and local organizations. As a member of the World Dairy Expo building committee during the last year, he helped conceive, design and plan the new cattle barns that will be an exciting addition to the Expo starting with the 2014 show. Bob currently lives near Poynette, Wisconsin with my wife of 25 years, Lisa, and daughters Ashley who is 14 and Sarah who is 11. The girls are also involved in the dairy judging world recently placing first and second in the Area Animal Science days in Wisconsin leading their Columbia county Junior team to first place.

Trent Olson – Judge of Total Merit
Trent was raised on his family’s Holstein dairy farm near Lewiston, MN. In 2005, he graduated with a BS in Animal Science from the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, where he was an active member of the Gopher Dairy Club and the dairy judging team, earning All-American honors at the World Dairy Expo Collegiate Dairy Judging Contest. Trent has been employed with ABS Global, headquartered in DeForest, WI, for the past nine years. At ABS, he works within the Product Development department, focusing his time on the North American progeny test program while assisting with various research and development, marketing, and sire acquisition projects. Trent currently resides in Windsor, WI, with his wife, Kristin.

Molly Sloan – Judge of Colored Breeds: Jerseys, Brown Swiss, and others
Molly Sloan lives in Columbus, WI with her husband, Matt. She grew up on a registered Holstein farm in Marengo, IL. Molly graduated from University of Wisconsin-Madison with degrees in Dairy Science & Ag Journalism. For the past 8 years she has worked for Alta Genetics, currently serving as Global Training Program Manager. She has judged dairy shows in 11 states and 4 countries including the National Brown Swiss shows in Peru and Australia, Brazil’s Fenosafoja Jersey Show, the Southern National Jersey Show, the Wisconsin and Kansas Jr. State Fair Jersey Shows, the Maryland State Fair Brown Swiss Show, and both Brown Swiss and Jersey junior shows at the Nebraska and Illinois State Fairs. Molly also served 3 times as an official judge for the National 4-H Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo and was the Jersey official for the 2014 Hoards Dairyman Cow Judging Contest. Molly was on the 2013 Holstein All-American Contest Panel of Judges and the 2013 Junior All-American Red & White Holstein Contest Judges Panel. She will judge the International Junior Holstein Show at World Dairy Expo and the Junior Jersey Show at the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg, PA this fall.

Brandon Thesing – Judge of Crossbreds and Colored Breeds and Associate Judge for some Holstein heifer classes
Brandon grew up on his family’s 175 cow Holstein and Jersey farm near Winona MN. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2011 earning a degree in Animal Science with a minor in Applied economics. While at the University of MN he was a member of the dairy judging team that placed in the top 4 in all 3 national contests while Brandon individually earned All- American honors at the World Dairy Expo Collegiate Dairy Judging Contest. After graduation Brandon accepted a position with MN Select Sires and currently serves as a Key Client Specialist. In his role Brandon provides genetic and reproductive consultation to customers throughout Minnesota and North Dakota, as well as working extensively with their cow monitoring technology. Brandon currently lives in Pine Island MN with his wife Abby.

Ryan Weigel – Judge of Grade Holsteins
Ryan Weigel is a Sire Analyst for Accelerated Genetics in Baraboo, WI. Prior to employment with Accelerated Genetics, Mr. Weigel was the Dairy Cattle Show Manager for World Dairy Expo in Madison, WI. He has also been a District Sales Manager for Bou-Matic, Inc. Ryan is co-owner of KHW Genetics. KHW has produced All-American show winners; has had active bulls in many different AI organizations, and exported embryos around the World. Most notable of the animals KHW has bred include: KHW Kite Advent-Red (5-time Premier Sire of World Dairy Expo’s Grand International Red & White Show), KHW Regiment Apple-Red (All-American & National show winner). Mr. Weigel coaches the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Dairy Judging Team with his brother Cory. He has judged multiple dairy cattle shows and served as an official for many different judging contests and clinics throughout the states of Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois. He has also judged internationally in Japan. Ryan resides in Platteville, Wisconsin with his wife Traci and three young children.
Cody Schlecht

Cody’s resides in rural Canby, MN. He started showing goats through 4-H and started showing at various shows. From showing goats through 4-H, Cody now owns a herd of LaManchas. Cody enjoys being involved with youth in 4-H. He looks forward to judging 4-H projects in several counties every summer. Cody is delighted to have the opportunity to judge the breeding classes and showmanship. Cody is thrilled to have the opportunity to judge at the State Fair this year.

Morgan Allen

Morgan was born in Goodhue, MN and currently resides in rural Kenyon, MN. She started showing goats in 4-H and started becoming very involved in the Goat Project. Morgan now works as a Dairy Nutritionist at Big-Gain Feed. Morgan and her husband, Keith, now have a commercial dairy and raises Oberhasli’s. Morgan has judged at many fairs and enjoys being involved with youth in 4-H. Morgan is excited to have the opportunity to judge Showmanship.

2014 MN State Fair Meat Goat Judges

Jeremy Church

Jeremy grew up on a fifth generation farm/ranch operation in SW Oklahoma producing supreme wheat, alfalfa hay, and cattle. The livestock consisted of Registered Hereford and Shorthorn as well as club calves. They introduced Boer Goats into their production system in 2003 which progressed into a small group of Registered Boer Goats.

Jeremy is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and judged collegiately while attending Redlands Community College. He became a certified ABGA judge in 2009 and has had the privilege of judging shows in 20 states including some of the largest ABGA shows outside of the AGBA National Show.

His family has been a proud supporter and advocate for the Junior Goat program in Oklahoma and nationwide. He is a founding member of the Oklahoma Goat Promoters Association and subsidiary, The Elite 100, which is responsible for raising funds in excess of $250,000 for the Junior Goat exhibitors of the Oklahoma Youth Expo and Tulsa State Fair. Through this effort wether goats have been privileged to sell in the Sale of Champions and have been the high averaging species for the past three years.
2014 Minnesota State Fair Poultry Judges

Gary Rossman

Gary got his start in poultry as a nine-year-old 4-H member where he raised a variety of chickens, as well as ducks and geese. After he married and settled into a house in the country, he picked up his old hobby again in 1997 and began raising Black Australorp Chickens, as well as a variety of other breeds. Gary since became a master breeder and exhibitor of Black Australorps. Gary has also become involved with 4-h as an adult having served as a poultry leader for his local 4-h club since 1995. Additionally, he is a fair board director and is responsible for the poultry barn at the Racine County Fair, Wisconsin. Gary started poultry judging in 1997 as a Wisconsin county fair judge and he received his APA General License in 1999. Gary enjoys working with the youth and sharing his knowledge of poultry as a breeder and judge.

Reynold Loecker

Reynold have been raising poultry all his life and have been showing purebred poultry since 1967. He is a retired middle school teacher. Most of his teaching career was in the areas of science and math. He currently raises about 15 different breeds and varieties of purebred bantam chickens. He sold chickens and adult birds through the United States and majority have been for 4-H projects. Reynold is a master exhibitor and master breeder in both the American Bantam Association and the American Poultry Association. In 2012 he was recognized by the American Poultry Association for his contributions to the purebred poultry industry. He judges about 20 plus shows each summer in South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota. He really enjoys working with the 4-H youth and the poultry area and enjoy watching them learn and excel in our wonderful hobby.

Dr. Evan Van Beusekom

Dr. Evan Van Beusekom grew up in Delano and has been raising poultry for just over 20 years. He has bred and shown many different breeds and species over the years, but specializes in Silver Appleyards, Buff and Brown African Geese, Jersey Giants, Old English Games, and Frillback Pigeons. He believes showmanship and learning are the most important aspects of 4-H and won showmanship several times at the State Fair as a 4-H’er. Dr. Evan currently works as a veterinarian for JennieO Turkey Stores and resides with his fiancé in Delano, MN.
2014 Minnesota State Fair Rabbit Judge

Meara Collins
Meara has been involved in the 4-H project for the past 18 years in many different ways. Meara exhibited rabbits and goats in the 4-H project at the Minnesota State Fair for nine of those years. While at the Minnesota get together, Meara has won interviews three times and was 2nd twice. Meara has judged many county fairs all over the state for many years, and have met some fantastic people along the way. Meara has been an ARBA judge for the past seven years. In that time she judged in two countries, and in many cities and states all over the United States. She is currently the Vice President of the National Silver Fox Rabbit Club. When not working with rabbits, Meara is a veterinary technician at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center. She works in many fields of small animal medicine, but her favorite speciality areas are critical care, emergency care, and surgery.

Cathy Szychulda has been an ARBA judge for 20 years. She has served on the ARBA standards committee and as president of the National Rex Club. Cathy has judged in 40 of the 50 states and two countries. She and her husband John recently returned from a judging trip in Alaska, where they also fished for Salmon and Halibut. Cathy has been in the education world for 32 years, teaching all grades K-8 including teaching in a one room school house. Most recently she has been working as a school administrator, not as a principal, but as a teacher for new teachers to the profession. This last year alone Cathy had 253 new teachers go through her program. Having been in the role for 18 years she has touched the lives of thousands of new teachers who in turn touch the lives of the students they teach. Working with kids is an important aspect of Cathy’s life. She and her husband John are currently waiting for the birth of their 8th grandchild! Judging rabbits and showmanship help keep that contact with kids alive and exciting. Cathy thanks you all for inviting her to judge the Minnesota Fair.

Mike Avesing began raising rabbits in 1966 and attended his show in 1969. He became a Registrar in the early 80s and got his Judge's license in 1987. Mike has judged at every ARBA Convention since he got his license with the exception of one year when he was not able to attend the convention due to work commitments. Mike was privileged to be able to choose the BIS rabbit at the ARBA Conventions in Wichita, KS and Minneapolis, MN. It has also been an honor for Mike to have participated in the Convention BIS process every year he was eligible. Mike has chaired, or been a member of, the Standards Committee for several Specialty clubs, notably the Holland Lops, Satins, and English Spots. He has chaired the ARBA Constitution and By-Laws Committee and assisted with the Youth contests at several conventions. Mike is a past Chair of the ARBA Standards Committee. Mike is currently the ARBA President and has also served on the ARBA Board as the District 3 Director for three years. In his time away from their hobby, Mike is employed as a Plant Manager by Muscatine Power and Water at their power generating station. Mike is also a Nutrena Rep. working with many different people. He has a BA in Business Administration from Iowa Wesleyan College and have taken graduate business courses from both St. Ambrose University and the University of Notre Dame. Phyllis and Mike have been married for over 30 years and have a son and a daughter, both of whom showed rabbits in 4H and in ARBA Youth shows.

Mark Fronning has been an ARBA Judge for 17 years. He has served in many positions locally and regionally. As a founding member of the Heart of the Lakes Rabbit Breeders Club he has held positions from the secretary/treasurer to president. He has also been club representative to the Minnesota State club. Mark has worked in the health care field for 33 years from nursing homes to hospitals. The past 9 years he has worked as an RN at a mental health/chemically dependent hospital for adults and children. Working with kids is important to Mark as he sees the difference it makes in their lives as a positive role model. Mark Judges many 4H events. It is great to see kids faces light up as they know he is going to make it fun. Afterwards the parents thank him for teaching as well as doing such a good job with the kids. Mark was able to come to the Minnesota State Fair each year he was eligible while he was in 4H. Today is an honor and pleasure for Mark to return as a Judge.
2014 Minnesota State Fair
4-H Sheep Judges

Mark McCann—Market Lambs

Mark A. McCann is Extension Animal Scientist and Professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Sciences. His Extension program focuses on forages, nutrition and management of beef cattle and sheep. Dr. McCann also teaches “Advanced Livestock Enterprise”, manages the commercial research cow herd and conducts research in early weaning, phosphorous utilization and forage utilization. Before coming to Virginia Tech, he served on the faculty in the Department of Animal and Dairy Science at the University of Georgia from 1986-2001. While on faculty he developed an integrated extension/research program focused on beef cattle nutrition and forages. His cattle research was instrumental in the release of Alfagraze alfalfa, Jesup improved tall fescue, and Max Q tall fescue.

McCann received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Animal Science at North Carolina State University before earning his Ph.D. from Texas Tech University. He is a member of the American Society of Animal Science and American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists. He and his wife have been married for 33 years and have two sons, Josh and Zachary. Josh is in graduate school at the University of Illinois and Zachary works for Tyson Foods in Shelbyville, TN. They reside on a small farm in Giles County where they have a couple of horses and a sheep flock.

Justin Benz – Breeding Ewes

Justin Benz grew up in Beulah, ND showing Rambouillet sheep, market lambs, market hogs, and steers. He received his B.S. in Animal Science from North Dakota State University where he was a member of the Livestock, Meats, and Meat Animal Evaluation Teams. He then received his M.S. from Kansas State University in Swine Nutrition. Justin currently is closely involved with his family’s Rambouillet flock, which recently relocated to St. Marys, Kansas. Justin’s hobbies include watching college athletics and going to livestock shows.