2015 MINNESOTA STATE FAIR
4-H BEEF SHOW JUDGES

4-H Beef Show Judge --- Jason Rowntree

Dr. Jason Rowntree is an Associate Professor of Animal Science at Michigan State University, in East Lansing, Michigan. He is currently the faculty coordinator for two MSU beef research facilities, the Lake City and Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Centers. He is currently developing a genetic beef cattle base using Red Angus across the two research facilities to provide grass finishing genetics to the upper Midwest. Jason has been active with intercollegiate livestock judging activities for more than twenty years as a participant, coach and assistant superintendent of the National Contest. For hobby, he has judged livestock shows nationally and in Canada for over twenty years. Jason and his wife Cara have three children. They have a small ten acre farm that allows for his family to raise grass finished beef, as well as pastured poultry and eggs, for their friends and family.

4-H Dairy Steer Judge --- Brian Schermerhorn

Brian and his wife Tina, along with their children, Logan, Zach, and Izak, live near New York Mills, Minnesota. Brian manages a feed mill for Leaf River Ag at Bluffton, MN. The Schermerhorn Family is active in showing beef cattle, hogs, sheep, and market goats at junior shows in the Upper Midwest. Brian has judged many state and regional beef shows in Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota in recent years.

4-H Beef Showmanship Judge --- D. Lance Carter

Lance Carter is from Yuba City, California, which is located in northern part of the State, near Sacramento. He is currently a USDA County Farm Service Agency Director for three counties in California. He was a graduate of California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, CA, where he received a Bachelor’s Degree in Agriculture Sciences, and was a member of the livestock judging team. Lance co-owns a herd of registered Angus and crossbred cows, from which club calves are sold each year. He has judged numerous Angus and crossbreed livestock shows throughout the Western United States. Lance has been a youth livestock program volunteer leader in California for the past twenty-eight years.
**2015 Minnesota State Fair 4-H Dairy Judges**

**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 Grade Holsteins**

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 9 years she has worked for Alta Genetics, currently serving as Global training Program Manager. She has judged over 80 shows in 13 states, including the International Junior Holstein Show at World Dairy Expo. She has also judged internationally at major shows in Australia, Peru, Brazil, and France. Molly has been on the Holstein All-American and Junior All-American Judges Panels as well as the Red & White and Jr. Red & White Holstein All-American Judges Panels. She has also served 3 times as an official judge for the National 4-H Dairy Judging Contest at World Dairy Expo and been a judge for the Hoards Dairyman judging contest. Molly continues to own elite show heifers, including some that have earned All-American and All-Canadian Holstein nominations. Later this year, Molly will judge the Canadian 4-H Dairy Classic Show at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Canada.

**Sherry Smith – Judge of Colored Breeds: Jerseys, Brown Swiss, and others**

Sherry Smith and her husband, Neal Smith, live in Glenford, Ohio. They have one daughter, Kassandra, who is a student at the Ohio State University. Sherry is an independent dairy nutrition consultant and Ohio 4-H Dairy Program Assistant where she coaches the state 4-H dairy judging teams. Sherry and her husband raise Jersey, Brown Swiss and Holstein heifers. She has shown cattle most of her life and has had a number of Brown Swiss All-American nominations. They own Brown Swiss, Holstein and Jersey cattle in partnerships. Sherry has judged across the United States, and was the Associate Judge for the Brown Swiss Show at World Dairy Expo last year, the 2012 Brown Swiss Open Show at the North American International Livestock Exposition, the Milking Shorthorn Open Show at the All American Dairy Show, and the Shorthorn Junior Show at the North American International Livestock Exposition. She has also judged at several State Fairs including Ohio, North Carolina, Missouri, Minnesota, Kansas, Nebraska and Mississippi.

**Alicia Thurk – Judge of Crossbreds and Colored Breeds and Associate Judge for some Holstein heifer classes**

Alicia Thurk grew up on a small dairy farm near Villard, in west central Minnesota. She attended the University of Minnesota, and was a member of the judging team, which ignited her passion for judging. After graduation, she worked for 4 years with Genex Cooperative as an Area Programs Consultant in southeast Minnesota. Alicia then decided to return to her home farm, where she still works today. Over the past 10 years, Alicia has served as an assistant coach for the very successful university of Minnesota dairy judging team. She has also had the opportunity to judge at numerous county and state fairs across Minnesota, North Dakota, and Iowa. Recently, she had the honor of receiving the distinguished service award from the Gopher Dairy Club.

**Ryan Weigel – Judge of Registered Holsteins**

Ryan Weigel is a Sire Analyst for Accelerated Genetics where he is responsible for creating and procuring the highest genomic quality young sires. Prior to employment with Accelerated Genetics, Mr. Weigel was the Dairy Cattle Show Manager for World Dairy Expo. 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 (6-time Premier Sire of World Dairy Expo’s Grand International Red & White Show), KHW Regiment Apple-Red (Grand Champion World Dairy Expo 2011), and KHW Goldwyn Aiko (2015 Red Impact Cow in Holstein International). Their Dam and the foundation cow of KHW Genetics: Kamps-Hollow Altitude has received many honors including the Red Impact Cow of the Year awarded by Holstein International in 2009 and the Wisconsin Cow of the Year also in 2009. Together with his business partner Ryan Kamps, Weigel was awarded Wisconsin’s Distinguished Young Holstein Breeder in 2014. Mr. Weigel is an assistant coach for the University of Wisconsin-Platteville Dairy Judging Team and is on Holstein Association USA’s Qualified Judges list. Weigel has judged dairy cattle shows and throughout the states of Minnesota, Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. He has also judged internationally in Japan on and is looking forward to judging in Australia this winter. Ryan resides in Platteville, Wisconsin with his wife Traci and three young children.
2015 Minnesota State Fair
4-H Dairy Goat Judges

Tamara Taylor

Tamara Taylor is from Era, Texas. She has had dairy goats for 42 years and has raised many different breeds. She currently has Alpines and Saanens under the herd name of Patterson Dairy Goats. Tamara is an advanced American Dairy Goat Association judge.

Kathy Smith

Kathy Smith is from Fort Ripley, Minnesota. She is a 4-H mom and grandmother. She has been a 4-H judge for many years along with being a American Dairy Goat Association member and breeder for 30 years. Kathy raises and breeds Toggenburgs and Nubians.
2015 Minnesota State Fair
4-H Meat Goat Judge

Larry Epting
Larry lives in Sherman, Texas. He has judged for 10 years with the American Boer Goat Association. He has raised goats for 20 years, and raised boer goats for 10 years with a herd of 40. Larry judges State Fairs, County Shows, and the American Boer Goat Association Junior National Show. Larry is married and has 2 grown children. His son is an animal science teacher and his daughter is a speech pathologist. He has 2 grandkids, a 4 year old girl and a 3 year old boy.
2015 Minnesota State Fair
4-H Lama Judge

**Ken Forster**

Ken and his wife Nancy live 1 mile north of Forman, ND. They have raised llamas since 1987 and also raise miniature donkeys. Ken retired from Bobcat Company where he had worked for 31 years in 2003. Ken has been a long time member of ALSA and became an ALSA Judge in 2001. Was elected to the ALSA Board of Directors in 2009 and was ALSA President 4 ½ years. Ken enjoys showing llamas especially in performance classes, judging llama shows and working with the youth at shows and 4-H events.
2015 Minnesota State Fair
4-H Poultry Judges

Wayne Fischer
Wayne lives in Arlington, South Dakota with his family and is in the banking industry. Wayne is very involved with 4-H and youth poultry and pigeons in South Dakota and surrounding states. Wayne raises several breeds and varieties of chickens and pigeons. He is a sought after poultry and pigeon judge in South Dakota and the surrounding states. Wayne is very busy now judging numerous open class pigeon shows throughout the United States.

Reynold Locker
Reynold has raised poultry all of his life and has showed purebred poultry since 1967. He is a retired school teacher; his teaching areas were science and math. He currently raises about 15 breeds and varieties of purebred bantams. He sells chicks and adult birds throughout the United States, with the majority of these being for 4-H projects. He is a master exhibitor and breeder in both the American Bantam and 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 county fairs in a normal year, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Minnesota. He really enjoys working with 4-H youth in the poultry area, and enjoys watching them learn and excel in our wonderful hobby!!

Bart Pals
Bart has been involved in purebred poultry most of his life, he lives in Mason City, Iowa where he owns and operates Bart Pals Construction along with his wife Jody. They have 2 children, Katie who is an ELCA Lutheran pastor in Kietster, Minnesota and a son Logan who is in the United States Air Force now living in Boston, Massachusetts. Bart is a licensed American Poultry and American Bantam Association General Licensed Judge who judges many youth as well as open class poultry events throughout the year. Bart was the leading force in starting the Master Cup poultry event in Webster City, IA which has last year hosted 160 youth poultry for educational forums. This year the event hopes to host even more 4-H, FFA and poultry youth.
2015 Minnesota State Fair 4-H Rabbit Judges

Theresa Christen - Waunakee, WI
Theresa Christen has been a 4-H judge for 24 years and an American Rabbit Breeders Association judge for 15 years. She and her husband, Tom, live near Waunakee, Wisconsin on a small 126 acre farm that has been in her family for over 150 years. As an adult, she began raising Rex in 1984 and started showing in 1987. Gradually the Rex turned into a fur and pelting operation. Throughout the years, her family has raised and shown New Zealand, Californian, Holland Lop, Rex, Florida White and most recently Checkered Giants. Theresa has been involved on the local club level as past President and Treasurer of the Badger Rabbit Breeders Association and has served on the Board of the Wisconsin State Rabbit Breeders Association. On the National level, she was a member of the ARBA Youth Committee, responsible for the judging contests at the annual convention. Currently, Theresa is the District 3 Director on ARBA Board, representing the states of Iowa, Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Nebraska, and Wisconsin. In her spare time, she enjoys judging 4-H fairs and is an avid vegetable and flower gardener.

Danny Long – Williamsburg, Ohio
Danny was born and lives in Williamsburg, Ohio. Danny has been involved with rabbits for over 50 years. He has raised 28 breeds of rabbits. In 1965 Danny won the A.R.B.A. Youth Judging Contest in Syracuse, New York at the A.R.B.A Convention. Danny currently raises Checkered Giants and Thriantas. Danny has won several best of breeds at A.R.B.A conventions with both breeds. Danny has been an A.R.B.A. Licensed Judge for six years and has judged all over the United States and Canada. He has judged the West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Florida, Minnesota, and soon Texas State Fair. Danny recently judged the Indiana and Ohio State Fair Market Rabbits Show. He recently judged over 800 market rabbits at the Ross County Fair, which is the largest county fair in Ohio. Danny is very honored to be back judging at our Minnesota State Fair.

Derek Poole
Derek Poole was active in 4-H as youth from age 8-18. He has actively showed rabbits in 4-H, open shows and Convention. Derek has been the leader of the Wayne County, New York 4-H Rabbit Club for 12 years. Derek began his show career with a Black Dutch when he was in 5th grade. This poorly marked animal was the start of his life-long rabbit passion. Derek began competitively raising Dutch while in high school and was mentored by Johnny J. Baker, a Dutch Icon. While traveling across country with Baker, he was able to attend his first ARBA Convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1989 and won his first National Dutch title in Hartford, CT in 1990. Derek has actively bred and shown English Lops for the past 13 years. He has won Convention with his stock along with numerous National wins. He is also past President of the Lop Rabbit Club of America. Derek has a Masters’ Degree in Education and is a Certified School Counselor. He lives in New York on a small farm and raises many varieties of Dahlias. He runs an Early Literacy Foundation that reads to elementary school children in his county and engages the parents starting at the birth of their child. He passed his judging exams at the Minneapolis Convention in 2010. Derek has judged all over the United States, Canada and Japan in 2014. Derek has had the honor of judging Dutch, and American Fuzzy Lops at past ARBA Conventions. He will be judging Beverens and American Fuzzy Lops this year at the Convention in Portland, Oregon. He has judged English Lops, Netherland Dwarfs, Harlequins and Mini Lop National Shows.
Derek is very excited to meet the youth exhibitors and is honored to be a part of their educational journey.
Breeding Ewe Judge

Justin Benz grew up in Beulah, North Dakota 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.

Market Lamb Judge

Kyle Smithwick lives in Miles, Texas with his wife Julie and three children. He runs a commercial cow calf operation and raises club lambs. Kyle is also a wheat farmer and runs stocker lambs and steers. He received his undergraduate from Texas A&M where he participated on the livestock judging team. He received his Masters Degree at Angelo State University where he also coached the livestock judging team. He has had the opportunity to judge sheep and goat shows all over the United States. Some judging highlights include: National Western, Louisville, Oklahoma Youth Expo, Houston, San Antonio, and San Angelo.

Fleece Judge

Ann Kolthoff, Brookings, SD, grew up in northeast Iowa on a small diversified livestock and row crop operation. She graduated from South Dakota State University in 2011 with a degree in Animal Science and minor in agricultural business. During her undergrad, she was involved in Block and Bridle, Little International, and Sigma Alpha Women’s Fraternity. She also was a member of the wool, livestock, and meat animal evaluation teams. Currently she is the manager at the SDSU Sheep Unit and also pursuing a graduate degree in Ruminant Nutrition.

Lamb Lead Judges

Rachael Dahlman is a native of Wright County, Minnesota. She currently is a Retail Development Manager for Winfield, a division of Land o Lakes. She grew up on a crop farm, and had a flock of Montadale sheep she showed. Rachael was a long time member of MN 4-H and FFA and enjoyed showing sheep at the MN State Fair, especially the Lamb Lead competition. She is a 2012 graduate of SDSU in Agriculture Economics. Rachael enjoys traveling, her most recent adventure was to Ireland and enjoyed seeing the sheep on the countryside.

Arianna Whitney grew up on a sheep farm in Fillmore County, where she was actively involved in 4-H for 10 years. While in 4-H she participated in lamb lead, the sheep project, fashion revue, and quilting. Arianna stays active in the sheep industry by helping 4-H’ers with their sheep and lamb lead projects. She graduated from Saint Mary’s University with a bachelor’s degree in Political Science and Sociology, and is now attending St. Thomas School of Law.
2015 Minnesota State Fair 4-H Swine Show Judges

Willie Kirkpatrick  
Lone Grove, OK  
**Market Barrow Judge**

Willie Kirkpatrick is a graduate of Oklahoma State University with a Bachelors degree in Agriculture Education. While at college he was a member of the livestock judging team and was awarded high individual judge at the North American and National Barrow Shows. Willie is employed by Ralco Show as a feed consultant and owns and operates Kirkpatrick Farms. He and his fiancée Jackie have two daughters, Ashlee and Hunter. Willie has judged many national shows including World Pork Expo, San Antonio Livestock Show, National Western Stock Show, Michigan Livestock Youth Expo, National Junior Summer Spectacular and state fair shows including Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, New York, and Wisconsin as well as many county shows and conferences. His passion for livestock and working with youth are inherited from his father and grandfather who have devoted over 65 years to teaching Agriculture Education to youth!

Taylor Farrer  
Royal Center, IN  
**Showmanship Judge, Market Barrows**

Taylor Farrer hails from Royal Center, IN where he works as a Grain Merchandiser for Hanenkratt Grain. He graduated from Purdue University in 2007 with a Bachelors degree in Ag Economics. While at Purdue Taylor was a member of the Meat Animal Judging team. One of his most memorable judging experiences was judging the Yorkshire and Landrace breeding stock with his dad Tom at the National Barrow Show. Taylor and his wife Kristen work with his family running a 200 head herd of show calf cows consisting of Shorthorn, Chianina, Maine Anjou and Angus along with their 60 show pig herd of Spots, Yorks, Hamps, Durocs and Crossbreds and their boar stud.

Kade Hummel  
Ashkum, IL  
**Breeding & Market Gilt Judge**

Kade Hummel’s passion for pigs began at a young age as he started showing pigs in 4-H and FFA. His judging career started at Joliet Junior College and then at Western Illinois University. Kade worked for seven years as a field representative for the National Swine Registry covering the Midwest, Southwest and the western parts of the United States. Currently Kade is the Sales Manager for Linder United Show Feeds. Kade and his wife Jen own and operate Hummel Farms. Having judged shows for twenty years Kade loves watching the youth livestock shows across the country grow.

Ben Schmaling  
Prescott, IA  
**Showmanship Judge, Breeding and Market Gilts**

Ben Schmaling was raised in Belleville, WI and now resides in Prescott, IA with his wife JaLynne. An Iowa State graduate with a business degree in marketing, he currently is a Pork Production Specialist with Zoetis, formerly Pfizer Animal Health. While at Iowa State Ben worked with the Allen E. Christian Swine Teaching Farms and was on the Livestock Evaluation Team. Ben and his brother Ethan run Schmaling Brothers Berkshires marketing purebred seedstock and club pigs to 4-H and FFA members. He is currently serving as the president of the Iowa Purebred Swine Council. Showmanship is something that Ben took a lot of pride in as a 4-Her and he is excited about the opportunity to evaluate the showmanship competition at the Minnesota State Fair 4-H Swine Show.