

4-H

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Both Schiferl and Mogck get their birds from Reynold Loecker of Yankton.

"I've been doing this poultry thing all my life," Loecker said. He provides birds for 4-H kids all around Yankton County. He sells them across the country, too. Just recently, he got word that two of his chickens won the reserve and grand champion titles at a county fair in New Mexico.

"The word gets around," he said with a laugh. "That's my life," Loecker added. "I've put a lot of time into it."

But Loecker is also modest. He said a lot of the success is because of the child's involvement with their animals.

"If the kids take care of their birds and they mature well, they'll do well," he said.

When Loecker is not helping area youth or showing his own birds, he judges for area fairs. He spends about three hours a day during the summer tending to his birds.

A retired Yankton Middle School science teacher, Loecker always involved poultry in his teaching. He said they used to hatch eggs in school.

While taking care of thousands of chickens is a lot of work, Loecker appears to enjoy every minute of it.

"It's multifaceted," he said. "It's a good release and a good hobby. It's been really good to me."

By Emily Nohr

The first day of Yankton County's 4-H Achievement Days may have been winding down, but Friday night's Beef Show was well attended by both people and large critters. About 15 kids took the stage at the event, showing their cattle with pride and joy.

Miss South Dakota 2009, Emily Miller, handed out ribbons to all participants.

Kayla Barger, of Yankton, won the competition's best breeding heifer. Her cow, Lucy, was born about four months ago.

Barger stays on her toes while competing with Lucy. "It gets nerve racking," she said.

Mission Hill native Morgan Nielson showed her cow named Jamma. She won the competition's reserve breeding heifer. Nielson has worked with cows since she was very young, visiting her grandparents' farm.

"I like seeing what you accomplish at the end," she said. Garrett Kotalic won the show's No. 1 competition — the supreme, overall beef. Other winners included:

- Breeding heifers: Kayla Barger (grand champion) and Morgan Nielson (reserve champion)

- Market heifers: Jessica Goeken (grand champion) and Garrett Kotalic (reserve champion)

- Breed (pure-breed) steers: Garrett Kotalic (grand champion) and Jessica Goeken (reserve champion)

- Market steers: Caleb List (grand champion) and Garrett Heine (reserve champion)

The Beef Show concluded with showmanship categories. Look for more results of the Yankton County 4-H Achievement Days next week in the Press & Dakotan.

By Emily Nohr

Ten-year old Layne Hauger got into the family business at an early age.

"When I could walk, I started to help out," Hauger said. So it only made sense to do what the rest of his family has done — show pigs at the Yankton 4-H Achievement Days. It's the second year Hauger

has participated in the swine show.

"My whole family has done it, and I like pigs," Hauger said. "It's fun showing pigs."

Hauger showed off two pigs on Friday. He said he works with the pigs every day, and usually takes them out in the morning when it's cooler out.

"I walk them about a quarter of a mile, and my dad will look them over sometimes," he said.

Hauger's dad is also a judge in competitions, so he knows how to get his pigs ready to show.

"They look at the feet to see how wide they are, and the back to see if it goes up straight," Hauger said.

Katie Freng is quickly becoming a veteran of the swine show. It's the fifth year the 15-year old has had pigs entered in the show.

"I've been in 4-H for seven years, and last year I showed four pigs, but this year I only wanted to show three," she said. "I also show sheep and cattle, so I keep busy."

One of Freng's pigs earned first place in the Durac division. She also won Grand Champion in Senior Showmanship.

Just like Hauger, Freng works with her pigs each day.

"Just gotta train them," Freng said, "... but you don't want to overwork pigs. I walk them around for 15 minutes, which is about how long you will walk them around in a show. Then I

will give them a 10-minute bath."

The bath isn't the only reward the pigs will get from Freng.

"For a treat, they get two marshmallows, which they seem to like," Freng said.

By Justin Rust

Steady weather didn't wilt any of the enthusiasm for Friday afternoon's fun and games at the Yankton County Achievement Days.

Kids of all ages joined in the fun for Barnyard Olympics with plenty of onlookers to cheerlead. The event kicked off with rounds of wheel barrow races, categorized by age groups.

Though the wheel barrows were of the two-wheeled variety, there remained plenty of spills and thrills for all.

Then the three-legged races had contestants, bound at the leg to their partner, jumping and hobbling, two-by-two, down a gauntlet of whoops and hollers.

The final event engaged the energies of the younger crowd in a sweet corn shucking contest. Some of the younger participants had to enlist the help of the more experienced shuckers to peel back stubborn husks, but the end results were worth the effort. Once the truckload of locally grown sweet corn was shucked and cleaned, it was made available for sale after the event.

By Lisa Hare

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KATUS

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return it to its constitutional responsibilities to the people."

Katus stopped in Yankton as part of a campaign trek that took him from his home in Rapid City to Wall, Kadoka, Murdo, Presho, Chamberlain, Winner, Tyndall, Avon, Wagner, Marty and several other stops.

He received the Democratic nomination to run for state treasurer at the party's state convention in June.

A native of McIntosh, Katus served in the U.S. Army National Guard and the Peace Corps. After a tour with the Peace Corps, he founded Volunteer Training Specialists, Inc., which trained more than 2,000 Peace Corps Volunteers for five African countries.

Katus was elected to the South Dakota Senate in 2006 but lost his re-election bid two years later and now serves as a business consultant. He has helped launch and develop 40 small businesses and non-profit organizations, according to his campaign materials.

He elected, Katus said he would make sure that loans available to financial institutions from the state at 1 percent interest stay local instead of going to banks with Wall Street backing.

"I really believe in our small banks and credit unions," he said. "These are the people at the grassroots who get loans out to launch businesses."

The treasurer serves on the State Investment Council, and Katus said he would look at the morality of investments rather than just the bottom line. He applauded the South Dakota Legislature's passage of a bill in the 2010 session that provides

for divestiture of state investment in certain companies liable to sanctions under the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996.

"People say that doesn't really change anything," Katus said. "But, if you look back, South Africa was brought to tow because of divestment. If there are places like Iran that are unduly gaining by our investment ... why in the world should we be shoring up their economies?"

He said he would also work to make state government more transparent.

Finally, as a West River resident, Katus said he would work to bridge the divide that sometimes exists between it and East River, as well as between Democrats and Republicans.

"I am a bridge builder, a unifier," he said. "We're all citizens of South Dakota. We're all citizens of America, whatever differences we have."

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