



KAYLA PRASEK/P&D

TOP: Amy Beran Of First National Bank South Dakota prepares for action in the Celebrity Round Robin event, held Saturday, Aug. 2, at the Yankton County 4-H Achievement Days. The event has proven to be a popular addition to the festivities. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Yankton County commissioner Allen Sinclair was one of the participants in the Celebrity Round Robin event.

Celebrities Shine In Round-Robin Event

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF
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Matt Tereshinski has come a long ways from his first Celebrity Round Robin at Yankton County 4-H Achievement Days.

Tereshinski, vice president for agribusiness at First Dakota National Bank, had grown up in Yankton and not on the farm. When he was invited to compete as a “celebrity” in the first Yankton County 4-H round robin two years ago, he knew he needed help with showing livestock.

“When I first started, I watched YouTube on how to show animals in the ring,” he said. “I asked Adam Goeken, here at the bank, a lot of questions about what was involved with all of this. We talked about what it takes to show a steer, heifer or pig.”

For a rookie in the ring, Tereshinski didn’t do too badly.

“I finished in a tie for third place but lost the tiebreaker,” he said. “(Yankton Middle School principal) Todd Dvoracek won it, and (Yankton School District Superintendent) Wayne Kindel finished second.”

Undaunted, and perhaps a bit more determined, Tereshinski returned for last year’s Round Robin. He again finished third, this time behind Justin Wagner and Amy Beran, both of First National Bank of South Dakota.

Ah, but this year, Tereshinski vaulted to the head of the class — or herd — and claimed the top plaque. He finished ahead of runner-up Lauren Fosheim, the former Yankton County 4-H/youth development leader now from Sioux Falls.

“I guess the third time’s a charm,” he said with a chuckle.

Tereshinski has tackled his homework, refining both his livestock technique and knowledge.

“Each year, I would go through the motions and ask Adam (Goeken) how to do things. It was hard for me to remember some things,” he said. “It’s not just about showmanship. You also talk to the judges, and they ask you questions while you’re showing your animals.”

Tereshinski admitted, with more experience, he has become less nervous and more comfortable in the ring each year.

“It’s gotten a lot easier to do this (round robin) every year,” he said. “You learn to do things more efficiently. You know, it seems, practice makes perfect.”

The process also involves some luck, Tereshinski admitted.

“A big aspect is getting cooperative livestock. They bring in four or five pigs, and it’s the luck of the draw,” he said. “Last year, I had an uncooperative pig that decided it wasn’t going to move.”

Tereshinski tries to gain a competitive advantage where possible.

“Adam Goeken’s sister, Jess, was one of the judges,” he said. “(The Goekens) have been involved their entire lives with 4-H and livestock. If Adam or his sister raised the steer or heifer, it looked

very good, and I would try to get one of their livestock. I try to get that particular animal for showmanship.”

MAKING A RETURN

The Celebrity Round Robin has grown from the half-dozen contestants entering the ring for the inaugural event in 2012. This year’s field of 10 entrants included Tereshinski, Fosheim, Beran, Yankton mayor Dave Carda, Yankton County commissioners John Harper and Allen Sinclair, District 18 Sen. Jean Hunhoff, District 18 Rep. Bernie Hunhoff, Elizabeth Allemand of Jim River Fencing and Tara Pirak of Valley Ag Supply.

This year’s Round Robin provided a fun return to Yankton County for Fosheim, who now serves as the Young Professionals Network Manager for the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce.

“It was so great to be able to come back for Achievement Days this year,” she said. “I was so excited to see the 4-Hers and families, and see them be successful at things they had been working so hard on.”

“That being said, it was nice to be able to be just a spectator, something I’ve never been able to do at Yankton’s Achievement Days, and spend time watching the livestock shows and supporting the kids and catching up with everyone!”

In her former Yankton County 4-H position, Fosheim helped oversee the activity in the ring during the celebrity round robin. This time around, she was in the center of the action.

So what was it like to have the roles reversed on her?

“Honestly, I was a little nervous. It had been almost 10 years since I’ve shown an animal,” she said. “The 4-Hers make it look easy when they’re out in the show ring, but don’t let it fool you; what they do is hard work. And I didn’t know what sort of questions they would come up with to stump the celebrities this year.”

What started as fun became a contest with pride on the line, Fosheim admitted.

“Ultimately, my competitive nature kicked in, and I was in it to win it!” she said. “My Reserve Champion plaque is now hanging in my office at the Sioux Falls Chamber. I was appreciative to be invited down to participate. I’m no celebrity, but I’ll do whatever I can to support the kids and families in the Yankton County 4-H program.”

The celebrity round robin has become not only popular but also beneficial and educational for the general public, Fosheim said.

“It’s fun for community leaders to be out there and experience what the kids do every year, and I think it gives them a deeper appreciation for the 4-H program and what it instills in its members,” she said.

...exposing as many people as we can to agriculture, and the work that goes into feeding the world, is an important component of what these kids are learning in 4-H

from an early age.”

Through their year-long projects and Achievement Days, 4-Hers develop sound judgment in developing their livestock, Fosheim said.

“They need to have an understanding of things like how to choose a quality animal for their herd, and how to best show off those positive characteristics,” she said.

In addition, the 4-Hers learn more about livestock through events such as the celebrity round robin, Fosheim said.

“Showing livestock is such a small piece of what kids are able to do in 4-H, but it’s a strong piece,” she said. “Kids are able to learn and understand what it means to be responsible for something other than themselves, and that they need to be disciplined to take care of and train their animals.”

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Yankton County 4-H/youth development leader Stephanie Siebrandt has seen those leadership abilities grow among the older 4-Hers. She pointed to Junior Leaders Katie Freng and Jessica Goeken, who organized the Celebrity Round Robin, as examples.

Both young women are sophomores at South Dakota State University in Brookings and are in their final year of 4-H membership. Goeken, from Utica, is a member of the Happy Go Lucky Club and shows cattle. French, from Mission Hill, is a member of the Mission Hill Hillers and shows swine.

Siebrandt, working her first Yankton County 4-H Achievement Days, said she enjoyed the Celebrity Round Robin.

“I thought it was great. The Junior Leaders really enjoy putting it on,” she said. “They provide the animals and equipment, and they run things. They also choose who they want to invite as celebrities to show livestock. They choose who may be good at it and invite about 40 people.”

The Junior Leaders test the celebrities’ abilities and awareness, Siebrandt said.

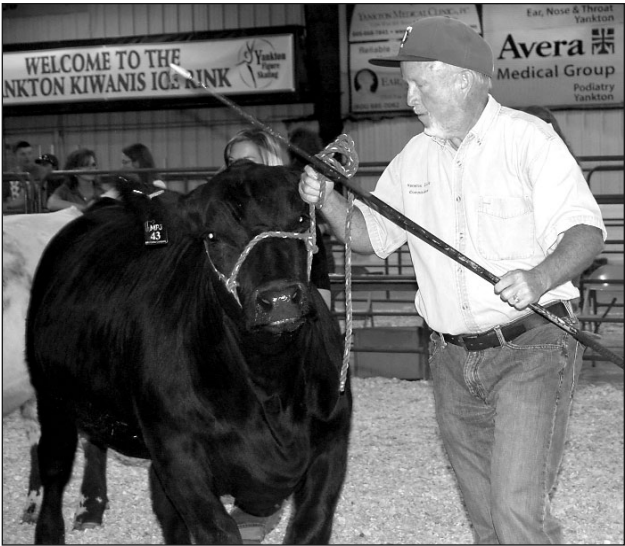
“The Junior Leaders ask questions about showmanship and test the celebrities’ livestock knowledge,” she said. “The Junior Leaders get a kick out of it when they ask questions and the celebrities get it wrong.”

The round robin’s greatest benefits are seen long after the competition ends, Siebrandt said.

“The biggest thing, they (4-Hers) learn how to talk to adults in leadership positions,” she said. “Most high school students wouldn’t talk to the mayor or a county commissioner or a business leader.”

Fosheim echoed those sentiments about building future leaders through the 4-H program.

“Young agricultural entrepreneurs like Katie Freng and Jessica Goeken, who have run Celebrity Round Robin for the past three years, are the future of agri-



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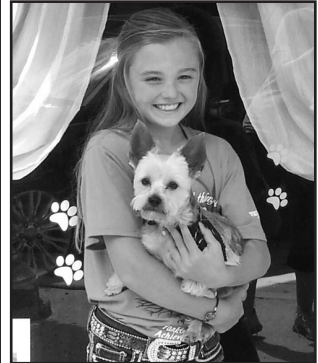
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