



Bess is shown here moving a group of sheep at his owner, Kelly Gale's, commands. Gale tells his dogs where to move a herd of animals based a number of commands. "Comebye" tells his dogs to move the herd in a certain direction.

JEREMY HOECK/P&D

Top Dog

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gates and other obstacles.

"Bess would have to go around a bend, go through a wide-panel shoot and do it all within just a few minutes," Gale said. "During the second part of the contest, we can help our dogs go through an obstacle, and I was in the top five going into the second round."

Gale ranked third going into the third round, which was a short course. Gale said Bess handled the cattle well during that round of competition.

Gale trained Bess in Yankton by building a practice arena outside his house.

"I have Bess bring cattle and sheep around a course I have set up," he said. "I use

my dogs to work cattle out here, but it's not every day work. Sheep and cattle sharpen Bess like how humans would train an athlete."

In addition, Gale trains his dogs by exercising them frequently, making sure they're fed right and on time, and making sure everything is ready to go with the practice courses.

"I incorporate all of my dogs into my work," he said. "To place in a contest is great, but the real reward is having my dogs help me."

In order to direct his dogs, Gale uses a series of words that tell the dogs which way to move, and whistles to get the dogs to stop and go.

"Bess has been the smartest dog I've ever had," he said. "Border collies' natural instinct is to fetch, and they're able to move herds better than most other dogs."

Although most of the dogs at the event were border collies, there were several Australian shepherds, as well.

"These dogs will do anything to please their owners," Gale said. "I've sent my dogs out around 3/4-mile here to gather a herd and they've been able to do it. They will literally risk their life for their owners."

Gale said he loved being in Canada for the competition.

"I love the Canadian people and how great they always treat me," he said. "I've worked dogs up there and used to have cattle up there. The people have always been great to me."

You can follow Andrew Atwal on Twitter at twitter.com/andrewatwal

Yankton

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Arts, will begin with a patriotic tribute. It will feature several patriotic songs, marches and will include members of the military. At approximately 8:30 p.m., the Bumble Bees will begin their traditional variety concert.

"It's going to be quite a

show," Gibson said.

Following the music will be the Yankton fireworks show at approximately 10 p.m. Premier Pyrotechnics will once again be shooting the fireworks from the Nebraska shore.

As it was last year, Meridian Bridge will be open to on-lookers during the show. Yankton Parks Director Todd Larson encouraged people to take advantage of the viewpoint, but reminds the

public that no chairs, blankets or similar obstructions will be allowed on the bridge.

"The Meridian Bridge allows them a little different perspective, especially from the top deck," he said. "But people will still be going across the bridge throughout the night, so we need to keep it open for pedestrian traffic."

While the fireworks presentation will remain similar

to those in the past, Larson said there is one change this year that should prove helpful — soil moisture. Drought conditions experienced during last year's celebration caused concerns about potential fires, so much so that rumors circulated prior to the show that the fireworks had been canceled.

"With all the rain we've had, there's really no concern of fire this year," Larson said. "But a fire truck will

still be nearby to watch for that."

Larson added that he hopes those who attend the celebration in Riverside Park enjoy the show, but asks that they show patience afterward when trying to exit the park.

"It doesn't take long to

get out of there as long as people don't get too anxious," he said. "Just be patient and courteous."

You can follow Derek Bartos on Twitter at twitter.com/d_bartos

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