

Sherman & Rath Participate In Ak-Sar-Ben Calf Challenge Program



TERRI LICKING PHOTO

Pictured above is Jentri Sherman, left, and Tyler Rath. Jentri is a recent graduate of Thedford High School and Tyler is 16. They showed their steers at the Thomas County Fair this year. Both are veteran showmen, not only at the county fair, but at the Nebraska State Fair and Ak-Sar-Ben.

The AKSARBEN Calf Challenge Program, held annually in conjunction with AKSARBEN Stock Show, provides 4-H youth an opportunity to showcase their knowledge of the beef industry and their ability to raise a market steer. The steers are provided by AKSARBEN Foundation and awarded to youths chosen through an application and skill-athon process.

Calf Challenge recipients must have exhibited at the current year's AKSARBEN Stock Show and have at least one year of exhibiting eligibility remaining. In order to successfully complete the project, participants have several requirements including: correspondence with their assigned sponsor, keeping records to determine actual cost of raising a market steer, and participation in the 2017 AKSARBEN Stock Show.

To learn more about the Calf Challenge Program, please contact Kevin Kock at 402-554-9600 ext. 105 or KockK@aksarben.org.

The AKSARBEN Calf Challenge Program takes the place of Catch A Calf,

where exhibitors and livestock were put in the arena in a race to become a pair. The evolution has made this a true educational endeavor. Twenty steers were awarded through the program to be shown at the 90th year of Ak-Sar-Ben, September 28 through October 1, 2017. They will be at the State Fairgrounds, Fonner Park, Grand Island this year and not in Omaha as in the past 89 years. The move to Ak-Sar-Ben was needed to expand and improve the event.

With only 20 steers available, Thomas County is honored to have two of their 4-H youth participating in this program.

Jentri plans to attend college to become an Ag instructor. Her parents are Steve and Shannon Ahlstrom. Tyler is a home schooled junior. Besides love of showing livestock, he builds and programs robots through 4-H. His parents are Lyle and Judy Rath.

Jentri and Tyler are members of the of the Thomas County Achievers 4-H Club, Judy is the organizational leader.

Ag in the Evening- Drought & Grasslands



KENDRA CUTLER PHOTO

Nebraska Extension and the FFA chapter at Thedford is hosting the first "Ag in the Evening" series on Tuesday, August 29. FFA students, FFA alumni, and ranchers are invited to attend. The topic for the evening will be range management, including classroom, outdoor, and hands-on activities.

Mitch Stephenson, Nebraska Extension Range

Ecologist and Bethany Johnston, Nebraska Extension, will cover plant health basics, drought management, and crucial precipitation trigger dates. We will travel to a pasture to go over plant identification and key species in the Sandhills. Learn how to core samples from hay bales using the hay probe, and what nutrients to test for on a

forage test.

The range workshop will start on August 29th at 6:00 p.m. CT at the Thomas County Courtroom. We will conclude by 8:00 p.m. CT.

Please RSVP to Bethany at the Extension Office at 308-645-2267 or bjohnston3@unl.edu or Bridger Chytka (FFA Advisor) at bridger.chytka@thedford-schools.org.

Go Green with the Upper Loup Natural Resources District (NRD)

One of the services provided to residents of the Upper Loup NRD is the opportunity to recycle! Chances are, if you live in any of the major communities in the ULNRD there is probably a recycle trailer somewhere in your town. The ULNRD has trailers in Dunning, Halsey, Hyannis, Mullen, Thedford, Stapleton, and Brownlee. For exact locations of those trailers in your town visit our website and look under the Project and Progress tab or give us a call! Materials accepted by our trailers are 1 and 2 plastics, aluminum, tin, paper, and cardboard. We also provide electronic recycling in Thedford at the ULNRD office, Security First Bank, Ewoldt's Grocery Store, and the Thomas County Courthouse. In Mullen electronics can be dropped off at NebraskaLand National Bank. These locations accept old calculators, cell phones and pagers, eBook readers, digital and video cameras, GPS and radar detectors, inkjet cartridges, Ipods, Ipads, and MP3 players. We do not accept batteries!

Recycling is easy! There are just a few things we ask that you do to keep processing as easy and efficient as possible. First check your plastics for a small 3 arrow triangle, usually found on the bottom of the container or bottle. If there is a 1 or a 2 in that triangle, good news! Your item can be recycled here! There is no need to remove the lid, cap, or label off of your plastic recyclables just



COURTESY PHOTO

please rinse them out. The same goes for aluminum and tin. We do not need you to remove labels but rinsing the cans out would be greatly appreciated. With cardboard, we ask that you please flatten your boxes before putting them in our recycle trailers. Also, there is no need to remove staples from any papers that you might be recycling.

There are a few things we do not recycle. Some of those include Styrofoam, plastic bags, glass, wax paper, livestock supplement tubs, feed sacks with plastic liner, motor oil containers, paper towels and tissues, aerosol cans, napkins, plastic wrap, plastic or wax coated boxes, and tarps. We also do not accept heavily dyed paper or batteries.

Why should you recycle? Because it's good for the environment! Did you know, 1 tin can saves enough energy to run a TV for 3 hours! What do you do with your newspapers after you read them? 250 million trees could be

saved EACH YEAR if all of our newspaper was recycled. There is a lot of trash the can be recycled but people usually don't take the time to. 30% of all waste is recycled while 70% can actually be recycled. Do your part to help keep the Sandhills and our world beautiful!

For more information on programs by the Upper Loup NRD check out upcoming articles! If you have any questions about recycling in our district or want more information check out our website, www.upperloup-nrd.org, call us at 308-645-2250, or visit us in Thedford! We would love to hear from you!



Mullen Arts Center to host 3rd Annual Open Art & Photo Show

Calling all artists and photographers! The Mullen Arts Center is hosting its 3rd Annual Open Art & Photo Show from September 5-29, 2017. This show is open to youth and adults. Adults are considered to be ages 14 and up.

Each person is eligible to enter two pieces into each category. Entries are required to be original work by the artist. In addition, entries are not required to be for sale or created within the last year. Pieces entered in previous open shows at the MAC will not be considered.

All entries are due at the Mullen Arts Center, located at 108 NW 1st Street in downtown Mullen, by Friday, Sept. 1 at 4:00 p.m. MT. Adult entry fees are \$5 per entry, and youth entry fees are \$2 per entry. Entries will be released at 10:00 a.m. MT on Tuesday, Oct. 3.

The following distinctions will be awarded: Overall Best of Show, 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in each division, and honorable mentions.

Entry forms will be available at the Mullen Arts Center and on the Mullen Arts Center Facebook page. If you have questions, please call Nicole Hoffmann at 308-546-2425.



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