

# WYOMING



## COWBOY STYLE ROUNDUP 2007



## WYOMING - COWBOY STYLE! was the theme for the 15th installment of the Junior Red Angus (JRA) educational leadership tour known as Round-Up.

Forty-nine juniors from eighteen states and one Canadian province ventured to Denver, Colorado, to begin five days of intense contests, demonstrations, business meetings, ranch tours and officer elections. JRA advisor, Dawn Bernhard, the JRA Board, and all the week's hosts put a tremendous amount of work into the extremely successful event.

Evan Yewsuk of Saskatchewan, Canada represented his country as part of the American/Canadian Exchange. He has previously attended Round-Up and was a welcome participant.

Activities got underway Tuesday, June 26 in Denver with Juniors arriving at the headquarters hotel. After a few minutes of getting to know each other and reacquainting with old friends, the juniors went straight to work. Entries for the scrapbook and poster contests were taken while others began work on the T-Shirt and Print Advertising contests.

Welcome Ceremonies gave an official kick off to Round-Up with introductions, orientation and a chance to meet current and prospective JRA Board members. The crew then headed for Golden, Colorado and a tour of the Coors Brewery. While touring Coors, the Round-Up participants learned how brewer's grains result from the beer making process and were surprised at the volume (measured in hundreds of tons per day) of brewer's grains that are shipped from the brewery into area cattle feeding facilities each day. Following the Coors tour, the group gathered at Lions Park in Golden for a team scavenger hunt, ice breakers, and a steak dinner. Larry and Jean Croissant along with daughter and son-in-law, Kevin and Sally Miller of Croissant Red Angus, Briggsdale, CO, drove down to serve as chefs, grilling Meyer Natural Angus strip steaks for everyone. John Maday, associate editor for Drovers Journal, addressed the group with his observations about the beef industry and discussion on the use of by-products feeding in cattle nutrition.

The Juniors got on the road for Ft. Collins and a tour/educational seminar

at Colorado State University (CSU) on Wednesday morning. Dr. Tom Field, CSU graduate students and cow herd/farm manager, Casey Thompson, hosted the group at the Agriculture Research Development and Education Center (ARDEC). Dr. Field gave a talk on the future of the beef industry and a tour of the ARDEC facility. Feeding systems, local and regional feedstuffs and a tour of the nutrition research barn were included. While at CSU, the Quiz Bowl was held, with Phillip Berg and MaryAnn Kniebel (parents/chaperones on the trip) serving as moderator and time keeper. The Informed Speech contest was held with Red Angus breeder, Larry Croissant, and a CSU graduate student serving as judges in the senior division while another CSU graduate and Steve Roth evaluated the junior speeches.

After a full morning at CSU, the bus headed north to Douglas, Wyoming and a stop at JAFDIP (Just Another Fun Day In Paradise) Ranch. BenJean Avendano and Jim Braun have a commercial horse and cattle ranch there. BenJean is JRA president, Amber Leaf's, mom. Juniors competed in the annual Barnyard Olympics/Ranch Rodeo with many lively events, including stick horse relays, bobbing for carrots, water bucket relay and wheel barrel races. The group enjoyed a delicious elk kabob supper and barn dance. Then the bus headed to Casper for the night.

Early Thursday morning, the group left Casper headed to Leiter, Wyoming, - the home of Buffalo Creek Red Angus. Gini and Jack Chase and their welcoming entourage of canine friends, hosted the group at Buffalo Creek and shared the history, philosophy and everyday management practices of the operation. Cherokee Canyon, one of the all time high use Red Angus sires, and Romeo, a record-breaking sale bull at \$102,000, were at ranch headquarters for viewing. Many took advantage of the photo opportunity with the historic herd sires. The Chases and neighbors prepared a great lunch for everyone.

Beckton Stock Farm, Sheridan, Wyoming was the next stop on the tour.

Spike and Cam Forbes, joined by other members of their family, shared the history of one of the Red Angus founding herds. From high atop a ridge overlooking the scenic Beckton Stock Farm, Cam and Spike shared their unique way of breeding improved seedstock and discussed the haying and irrigation systems utilized on their ranch. The group got a real treat when RAAA founding member, Sal Forbes, stopped by to visit. Sal has always been a strong junior supporter - actually initiating the Junior Stockgrower Contest in Denver - and was glad to interact with the young people. The Team Sales contest and the Stockman's Quiz followed an enjoyable roast beef buffet dinner served by Tongue River High School students. RAAA Board member, Forrest Dunning, Cam Forbes and neighbor, Miff, served as Team Sales judges.

The group stayed the night in Sheridan and left the next morning for a long ride south to Wheatland. Utilizing time on the bus, the JRA Board conducted the JRA Standing Committee meetings, JRA annual business meeting, and officer elections. Joining the JRA officer team in 2007 are: Nathan Nelson, Starbuck, Minnesota; Kris Weidenbach, Highmore, South Dakota and Laura Mushrush, Strong City, Kansas. Natural Bridge Park was a scenic and peaceful setting for relaxation, a picnic lunch and photo session en route to Wheatland.

By mid afternoon, the group had arrived at von Forell Ranch. Mary and Hardy von Forell welcomed the group and told about the ranch history, beginnings and goals. Hardy and Mary conducted a judging clinic and the Cattle Evaluation Contest with the help of FFA advisor Jason Guerde and junior Red Angus enthusiast, Caitlin Harris.

Juniors evaluated 4 Red Angus classes: bred heifers, yearling bulls, fall replacement heifers and cow/calf pairs. While at the von Forell Ranch, the group had an opportunity to view 4L Super Vision (a senior herd sire and A.I. bull) and some of the Red Angus cow herd. Super Vision was used for the weight guessing contest. After a delicious steak supper with all the trimmings, the Equipment I.D contest was held followed by a ranch tour and a look at the cowherd.

Wellington, Colorado, was the loca-

tion for the evening's lodging. The next morning, the Round-Up group was split into two groups - the groups alternated white water rafting on the Cache Le Poudre River near Wellington and a tour of Leachman of Colorado. Lee Leachman and his family hosted the two groups for half a day each. Lee lead the tours through the Red Angus donor cows, sale bulls and discussed the Leachman program, goals and philosophies along the way. Lee shared with the groups how he evaluates cattle for sales and private treaty marketing and some marketing strategies. He had an interactive scenario that everyone seemed to enjoy and learn from while evaluating sets of Red Angus bulls both on paper and then live.

The last ranch stop was near Nunn, Colorado. Brent, Patti and Megan Johnson hosted the group at OchoVaca Ranch. Upon arrival, Bill Blythe, Sr. Territory Manager for Pfizer Animal Health, discussed CIDR's and BVD with the group and also hosted an extravagant Mexican meal. The annual Chinese auction and Awards Presentation followed the meal. The High Junior award was presented to Darby Gilbert, Stockport, Iowa. The High Senior award was presented to Marianne Mendoza, Valley Springs, California. The coveted Best-All-Around award - presented to the individual who accumulates the most points during the entire week of Round-Up - went to Darby Gilbert. Other contest and award winners can be viewed online in the Junior newsletter - Have You Herd.

The Juniors boarded the bus for the last time to head back to Denver and on to home the next day.

On Sunday, most attendees returned home while the JRA board members participated in new officer training conducted by Barb Wilkinson, Executive Director of Federation Relations & State Services National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Centennial, Colorado.

Round-Up 2007 was a huge success. Many thanks go out to all involved in the planning and hosting of this great event. For those of you who missed out on the fun, next year's Round-Up will be held in the Volunteer State, Tennessee, June 24-29, 2008. Contact Dawn Bernhard for more information: dawn@redangus.org. ■

