



John Mosbarger (above) of Sherman County used a specialized tool to position the cow's feet and scratch its belly in the beef showmanship competition at the 22nd Annual Tri-State Royal regional stock show Saturday. Mosbarger won reserve champion for his performance in the contest. Brittany Stephens (top left) of Kit Carson County held her sheep's head while Clint Taylor, judge at the felt the animal's muscles in the sheep conformation competition. Contestants like Stephens made sure the sheep's legs were in proper position and the sheep looked its best while Taylor compared them to determine the winner.

Photos by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland Star-News

Tri-State Royal champions top winners from 20 counties

Winners at the 22nd Annual Tri-State Royal regional stock show Saturday took home commemorative belt buckles and bragging rights for a big chunk of the High Plains.

Twenty counties were represented, with top winners from each county fair competing for the title of Tri-State Champion.

This year organizers boasted the credentials of the judge, Clint Taylor, of Washington, D.C. Taylor has been a livestock judge at Colby Community College, Butler County Community College and Texas Technical University.

The competition started out with youngsters showing sheep. Winners in the showmanship category were Cody Palen of Scott County in first place, Brandon Mazanez of Thomas County second and Jessie Woofert of Lane County third.

In conformation, where judges choose the best-looking animal under criteria including muscle and bone structure, the sheep shown by Cody Barilla of Pratt County was first and Cody Palen of Scott County's sheep was second.

In the swine competition, participants used small batons to direct the animals toward the judge in the showman section. Zach McCracken of Hamilton County won first place, Ashely Carpenter of Thomas County second and Kelsey Lee of Finney County third.

Judge Taylor told the crowd that he like to take his time judging the pigs because when the animals are in a pen, their disposition changes. In swine conformation, Coulter Boyd of Logan County took first place and Hope Cochran second.

For the beef competition, participants led the larger animals around the ring. Many of the younger contestants needed help moving and positioning the massive animals.

In showmanship, where leg positioning and animal handling are key, some contestants had coaches supporting and prodding them from

the stands. "Back left, front left," called one mother from the bleachers. "Turn him around. Where is the judge?"

In the showmanship category, Clayton Lampe of Scott County took first, John Mosbarger of Sherman County second and Darin Wiley of Cheyenne County third.

In heifer conformation, Darin Wiley of Cheyenne County won first, Clay Schilling of Sherman County second and Lane Rietcheck of Thomas County third.

In steer conformation, Zach Conine of Scott County took first, Clay Schilling of Sherman County second and Dakota Reiss of Wallace County third.

Between showmanship and conformation classes, the Royal held an "old pro" contest that allowed participants to compete, showing any animal that was not entered into a conformation competition.

For the sheep old pro category, Dusty Pilger of Wallace County won first place, Cody Barilla of Pratt County second and Kate Hagans of Lane County third.

In the swine old pro category, Zach McCracken of Hamilton County took first, Darin Wiley of Cheyenne County second and Ross Townsend of Sherman County third.

The beef old pro winners were Kelsey Lee of Finney County in first and Shirley Pearson of Sherman County second.

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Congressman Jerry Moran stops overnight

MORAN, from Page 1

the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall here on Friday, Aug. 27.

"I have sponsored two of these, with the first in Salina and last year in Clay Center," he said. "I thought since there is a new Veterans Affairs director in Denver, it would be good to hold one in Goodland.

The six counties on the western edge of Kansas are far enough from the veterans hospitals in Topeka and Wichita that they are assigned to the

Denver region, Moran said.

"Larry Biro is the new regional Veterans Affairs Director in Denver," Moran said. "The idea is to bring him and one of his staff members out to Goodland to hear from veterans what issues they have, and to get a feel for how many veterans are in the area.

"The forum will begin at 9 a.m., and the veterans groups in the area are letting as many veterans know as possible to have them attend and ask questions or discuss their concerns.

cerns.

"I am sure there are many veterans in the area who never felt they would need the VA, but with the cost of health care and prescriptions, they want to know what the options may be."

Moran said he has been working on veterans issues for the last eight years, and this is one of his priorities.

He had good news on a related health issue, because the Medicare reimbursement rates for rural hos-

pitals will increase in October to be on a more even basis with urban hospitals.

"We finally had a success in Congress," he said. "We have been fighting for this for several years. It will not be a huge increase, but it will help."

Moran said his office will send out more information about the meeting in the next week.

"This is a forum for the veterans," he said, "and the topics will be those brought up by the veterans."

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