



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2016 AKSARBEN Livestock Judging Contests draw in 600 participants from across the nation

Kansas teams win two championships, place in all divisions

Omaha, Neb. (October 20, 2016) – The AKSARBEN Stock Show hosted the AKSARBEN Livestock Judging Contests for university, junior college and 4-H teams Sept. 25. The nationwide competition included 76 teams and 600 participants. The judging contests evaluated and placed 12 classes of livestock that included beef cattle, sheep, swine and meat goats. By participating in the livestock judging contests, contestants enhance their livestock evaluation skills, as well as improve their communication and decision making skills.

Kansas State received top honors in the university division of the AKSARBEN Livestock Judging Contest, Texas Tech finished in second and Oklahoma State placed third. Butler Community College (Kansas) received top honors in their division, junior college sophomore team, Black Hawk College (Illinois) finished in second place and Blinn College (Texas) placed third. The junior college freshmen division was won by the Blinn College (Texas), Hutchinson Community College (Kansas) finished in second and South Plains College (Texas) placed third. The 4-H Livestock Judging division was won by Illinois State 4-H. Kentucky Blue finished in second and Kansas placed third.

Trophies were presented to the top five overall teams, top three in the respected species; the top 10 overall individuals and top 10 individuals in the respected species.

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University Division:

Kansas State - **2016 Champion Team**; coached by Chris Mullinix; team members: Lauren Prill, Ted Creech, Riley Lafrentz, Rob Johnson and Joseph Limbach

Texas Tech - **2016 Reserve Champion Team**; coached by Jon Declerck; team members: Brody Halfmann, Zane Webster, Chama Martin, Gabe Jennings and Jonathan Nieman

Oklahoma State - **2016 Third Place Team**; coached by Blake Bloomberg; team members: Callie Akins, Cooper Bounds, Tim Hubbard, Maggie Neer and Bodee Schlipf

South Dakota State – **2016 Fourth Place Team**; coached by Josh Cribbs; team members: Lyndsey Utter, Wyatt Smith, Kelly Morrison, Tony Munsteiger and John Bray

Nebraska (UNL) – **2016 Fifth Place Team**; coached by Brad Bennett; team members: Clay Roland, Andrea Gurney, Railen Ripp, Jefferson Keller and Gavin Harsh

Other university teams represented were from the following states: Illinois, Iowa State, Minnesota, Penn State, Texas A&M and Wyoming.

Junior College Sophomore Division:

Kansas - Butler Community College- **2016 Champion Team**; coached by Marcus Arnold and Taylor Frank; team members: PD Miller, Hannah Frobose, Haley Stark, Whitney Whitaker and Payton Dahmer

Illinois – Black Hawk College - **2016 Reserve Champion Team**; coached by Dan Hoge; team members: Jordyn Sills, Kip Wallace, Luke Wechter, Hannah Lauffenburger and Kiley Elder

Texas - Blinn College – **2016 Third Place Team**; coached by Brice Mund; team members: Lori Edwards, Kevin Edwards, Landon Eldridge, Emory Geye and Sierra Martin

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Illinois - Illinois Central – **2016 Fourth Place Team**; coached by Grant Grebner; team members: Jacob Hinshaw, Jake Pettigrew, Chase Taylor, Evan Dietz and Garrett Lowes

Kansas - Hutchinson – **2016 Fifth Place Team**; coached by Ben Williams; team members: Cody Boden, Cody Lafrentz, Wyatt Durst, Shayne Myers and Kyle Cavalli

Other state junior college sophomore teams represented in the contest were: **Colorado** – Northeastern Junior College; **Illinois** – Lake Land College; **Kansas** – Allen Community College and Fort Scott Community College; **Oklahoma** – Connors State College, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, Northern Oklahoma College and Redlands Community College; **Oregon** – Linn-Benton Community College; **Texas** – Howard College and South Plains College; **Wyoming** – Casper College and Northwest College.

Junior College Freshmen Division:

Texas – Blinn College - **2016 Champion Team**; coached by Brice Mund; team members: Kodi Schroeder, Kylie Patterson, Shyann Mattis, Collin Cass and Travis Bonner

Kansas – Hutchinson Community College - **2016 Reserve Champion Team**; coached by Ben Williams; team members: Ty Wickline, Hunter Frobose, Rachel Drumm, Blake Hopkins and Chase Ratliff

Texas – South Plains College – **2016 Third Place Team**; coached by Conner Newsom; team members: Drew Lamle, Connor Cross, Hagan Wright, Madi Schults and Tanner Keeton

Oklahoma – Redlands Community College – **2016 Fourth Place Team**; coached by Brandon Callis; team members: Caley Ellington, Kaley Cone, Katie Symes, Cody Fishgrab and Garrett Standfield

Kansas – Butler Community College – **2016 Fifth Place Team**; coached by Marcus Arnold and Taylor Frank; team members: Sydnee Gerken, Cade Hibdon, Ryan Gifford, Lexi Kaiser and Kenzie Kretzmeir

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Other state junior college freshmen teams represented in the contest were: **Colorado** – Northeastern Junior College; **Kansas** – Allen Community College, Colby Community College and Fort Scott Community College; **Nebraska** – Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture and Northeast Community College; **Oklahoma** – Connors State College, Eastern Oklahoma State College, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and Northern Oklahoma College; **Texas** – Frank Phillips College; **Wyoming** – Casper College, Eastern Wyoming College and Laramie County Community College

4-H Division:

Illinois – Illinois State 4-H – **2016 Champion Team**; coached by Jack Oathes; team members: Adrian Austin, Adam Gradert, Austin Walter and Gage Hange

Kentucky - Kentucky Blue – **2016 Reserve Champion Team**; coached by Steve Austin and Kane Austin; team members: Courtney Jeffers, Anna Arthur, Wyatt Brunks and Ben Brockman

Kansas - Kansas Team – **2016 Third Place Team**; coached by Christy Hammer; team members: Grady Hammer, Chisum Grund, Gabrielle Hammer and Lakin Perry

Colorado – Weld County – **2016 Fourth Place Team**; coached by Steve Gabel and Christie Gabel; team members: Jenna Frink, Austin Reitzenstein, Ashlyn Oschner and Bo Naibauer

Indiana – Southern Wells – **2016 Fifth Place Team**; coached by Randy Lee Mounsey; team members: Russell Plumre, Jada Johnson, Wes Moore and Sam Jones

Other ~~state~~ 4-H teams represented in the contest were: **Arkansas**; **Colorado** – Larimer County; **Florida** – Pasco County; **Indiana** – Elkhart County and Jasper County; **Iowa** – Bellevue Red (Jackson County) and Muscatine County; **Kentucky** – Kentucky Purple; **Minnesota** – Jackson County; **Missouri** – Harrison County, Lawrence County and Lincoln County; **Nebraska** – Buffalo County, Perkins/Chase County; **North Dakota**; **Oklahoma** –

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Kay County, Marshall County and Stephens County; **Tennessee**; Virginia – Rockingham County and Shenandoah County

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About AKSARBEN Foundation

Established in 1895, AKSARBEN Foundation represents the premier employers in Nebraska and western Iowa. AKSARBEN Foundation works as a unified network to influence change for the betterment of youth, the economy and Heartland communities. We advance our mission *to leverage collective business leadership to build a more prosperous Heartland* by funding and guiding best practice, needs-based scholarship programs, awarding over \$1 million annually; promoting the Heartland’s cultural heritage through top-ranking community celebrations, attended by over 100,000 annually; and honoring community leaders who carry on the Heartland’s tradition of philanthropy and volunteerism.

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