

Heifer & Hogget Competition 2011

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The entries are in and the finalists have been chosen ...

The judges have finished deliberating and the finalists have been chosen (see below) for the 2011 *Irish Farmers Journal* Heifer & Hogget Competition, which takes place at the National Livestock Show in Tullamore this Sunday, 14 August.

As expected, the calibre of entries was exceptional again this year, with over 200 submitted from across the country. This made the selection process very difficult for us and unfortunately only a certain amount of heifers and hoggets are up for grabs. The shortlist is reflective of the number of entries for each age

group and each category (i.e. beef, sheep, dairy).

We really enjoyed reading your views and experiences of Agriculture. Some of them were colourful and funny, while others were informative and very well written. In fact, we have included some of our favourite quotes from your entries (Check out the 'Quotable Quotes' section below). Although all of the entries were unique, they were all bursting with one thing in common - a passion for farming. If the entries are anything to go by the future of the Irish agriculture industry is in more than capable hands.

We would like to thank all of you who entered the competition either by post or online, with the online application process proving very popular this year. Thanks again to all the breed societies for kindly sponsoring the 15 prizes, which will be on display at the *Irish Farmers Journal* stand.

Sunday is just around the corner and everyone is welcome to attend the final at the *Irish Farmers Journal* stand, located between the pedigree and commercial cattle areas. Many of your favourite writers will be present to meet and greet you and your friends, including Shirley

Busteed, Justin McCarthy and Darren Carty.

Judging starts at 12pm for the dairy finalists, 12.30pm for the beef finalists and 1.30pm for the sheep finalists. Winners will be announced from 3pm onwards, when 15 of the 30 finalists will go home with either a top-quality beef or dairy heifer, or a pair of hogget ewes.

Finally, we wish all of the finalists the very best of luck on Sunday and look forward to seeing you at the show.

- By Pdraig Keane

10-14 YEARS DAIRY

- Julie Smith, Co Cavan
- Joseph Forbes, Co Cork

15-18 YEARS DAIRY

- Joseph Bracken, Co Offaly
- Nigel Kennington, Co Kilkenny

10-14 YEARS BEEF

- Ciaran Walsh, Co Kildare
- Conor Coakley, Co Cork

- Orla Curtin, Co Limerick
- Catherine Cunnane, Co Mayo
- Tomas Lacey, Co Tipperary
- Philip Walsh, Co Longford
- Lisa Mangan, Co Kerry

15-18 YEARS BEEF

- Liam Coppinger, Co Galway
- Edel Dunne, Co Waterford
- Nicole Hyland, Co Kildare
- Patrick Sweeney, Co Mayo

- Nicole McPadden, Co Offaly

10-14 YEARS SHEEP

- Katie Monahan, Co Galway
- Sam Gogan, Co Meath
- Kevin Madden, Co Tipperary
- Oisín Harkin, Co Tyrone
- Sarah Daly, Co Meath
- Andrew Barber, Co Sligo
- Lena Conroy, Co Wexford
- Niall Hynes, Co Galway

- Kevin Muldoon, Co Meath
- Nicola McLaughlin, Co Donegal
- Mark Freeman, Co Clare

15-18 YEARS SHEEP

- Aisling Rock, Co Roscommon
- Ciara Murray, Co Galway
- Pdraig O'Driscoll, Co Cork

QUOTABLE QUOTES

- "The worst thing about winter is waking up at 3am and 4am in the MORNING. I AM NOT A MORNING PERSON."
- "The night before the silage is cut is a very hostile night. Tensions are high as the whole family scan the forecast."
- "We have a cow who, I think, officially hates me!"
- "Getting an electric shock is a disadvantage."
- "I spent a lot of time typing these pages. Mam says my hand writing is too bad to read."
- "There was fierce action going on between cows bellowing and men shouting."
- "I won't say what my Dad calls some of our land but it begins with an 'S'."
- "The night before a show is like Christmas Eve. The next morning on the way to the

show me and my Dad stop halfway for a breakfast roll."

- "Our farm is built up mostly by sheep and about 25 cows and one bull and my sister. She is a piece of work."

- "If you don't find me in the farm you will find me in a field farming. If you don't find me there you will find me at home reading the *Farmers Journal*."

- "My ram is called Jim Jim. I got the name from Ballinasloe as my friend's uncle is called Jim Jim."

- "Scoby, my Jacob sheep, is really funny for the last four years she lambs on my birthday, which is New Year's Eve."

- "At the end of the day, who is putting the food on the table? We are, so just think about that when some people call me a smelly farmer!"

- "My favourite time of the year, by a head of a calf, is the calving season!"

- "I think it is great craic feeding the cows during the winter ... I think dipping the lambs is also great craic."

- "I don't care that much for money at my age. I'd rather be building powerful genetics in my stock."

- "I want to be a farmer because you can have your dinner anytime you want. If you worked for someone else, you would have to have your dinner when your boss tells you."

- "I get out of my school uniform in record time when I see the combine in the field."

- "I think farming life is a great way, from early morning to the end of the day. With all the hard work that has to be done, it's a busy life but a lot of fun."

- "The heady smell of cattle sweating in the shed takes getting used to, but a true farmer grows to love it."



Many thanks to the breed societies who are the generous sponsors of the heifers and hoggets

