

Heifer & Hogget Competition 2011

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2010 Post-Victory interviews



10-14 DAIRY WINNER 2010
Emma Mooney
Co Tipperary
Won a Norwegian Red Heifer

Emma Mooney was lucky when she won her Norwegian Red heifer, in that the heifer was already in calf. Danni, named after the TV star Danni Minogue, gave birth to her Norwegian Red calf, Daisy, this February and both are doing very well, "quiet and happy" on the Mooney's dairy farm.

Danni has already adjusted to the rest of the herd of about 100 dairy cows, and the calf is healthy out in the fields. Emma is 13 now, and says she "wouldn't mind a career in veterinary medicine or even continuing life as a farmer one day." She has grown up on her parents' farm with her two younger sisters, and has always had a love for animals, a passion that sparked her personal interest in farming.

10-14 SHEEP WINNER 2010
Ruth Mulligan,
Co Westmeath,
Won Mayo Mule Sheep

Ruth Mulligan is 15 years old now, just finished her Junior Cert and hopes to study veterinary science at UCD. At



Ruth Mulligan

last year's Heifer & Hogget Competition she won two Mayo Mule hoggets in the Young Sheep sector. Ruth named her prize animals Astra and Stella, and brought them home to live on her Auntie's farm in Castlepollard.

This family farm is home to all sorts of animals including sheep, cattle, and donkeys and Ruth spends as much time there, between afternoons, weekends and holidays, as she can. Although she doesn't live there all the time, she has been experiencing life on the farm since she was a small child. Farming is im-

portant to her, just like it is to the rest of her relatives, something she loves to do.

Ruth has set up a summer job for herself where she can help others by taking care of their dogs while they are on holidays. Meanwhile, Astra and Stella - the Mayo Mules - were both bred to a Texel, and gave birth to two lambs each. One of the hoggets was sick around lambing time and Ruth watched over and cared for her during the pregnancy "she was lovely and gentle." Thankfully everything worked out and both mules and their four lambs are doing well now.

10-14 BEEF WINNER 2010
Chris Gainley, Co Mayo
Won an Irish Angus Heifer

Chris Gainley, 14, was the lucky winner of last year's Young Beef section of the Heifer & Hogget Competition. He brought home an Irish Angus heifer to his family's farm in Castlebar and named her Rosy.

All is sound with Rosy, and she is currently in calf, due in early September. Chris admits it's "challenging to keep up with his studies during the school year," but with a little help from his parents, he is able



Chris Gainley

to manage his time both in the books and on the farm.

Chris is the youngest of three boys in his family and appreciates the hard work that goes into maintaining their beef farm, especially as one of his brothers are almost finished college now.

When he won last year's competition, he received lots of attention from his community, and some of his other friends who also enjoy farming have decided to compete in this year's Heifer & Hogget Competition.

This week's question!

SO WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU HAVE TO DO TO ENTER?

You have to answer the weekly question which will be found on the Heifer & Hogget page in *Irish Country Living*. The answer to these questions can then be posted, emailed, or completed online. It can consist of sheets stapled together or it can be typed up on your computer.

WHAT SHOULD THE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS CONSIST OF?

We are leaving this choice to you; the only thing you need to take note of are the different questions that will be printed here every week. For the 10-14 year old category, answers should be no longer than 250 words. For the 15 to 18 year old category, answers should be no longer than 500 words. Use as many photos or drawings as you please.



Question 1

10-14 year olds:
Why I want to be a farmer?

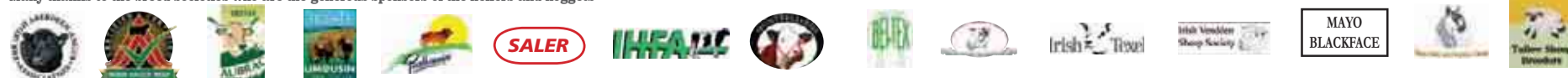
15-18 year olds:
The best and most challenging aspects of farming are ...

- **Postal Entries:** 'Heifer & Hogget Competition', *Irish Farmers Journal*, Irish Farm Centre, Bluebell, Dublin 12
- **Email Entries:** heifers@farmersjournal.ie
- **Online/Web Entries:** Go to www.myfarmbook.com, sign up and fill in your answers each week

Please note you can enter online and also by post! To enter the 10 - 14 year old category you must be those ages on the day of Tullamore Show - 14 August 2011. The same goes for the 15 to 18 year old category - you must be between 15 and 18 on the day of the show.

Deadline for entries is Friday 22nd July 2011

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



BEEF: Irish Aberdeen Angus Association, Irish Angus Cattle Society, Irish Aubrac Cattle Society, Irish Limousin Cattle Society, Irish Parthenaise Cattle Society and Irish Salers Cattle Society **DAIRY:** Irish Holstein Friesian Association and Irish Montbelliarde Cattle Society **PAIRS OF HOGGETS:** Beltex Sheep Society, Irish Charollais Sheep Society, Irish Texel Sheep Society, Irish Vendeen Sheep Society, Mayo Blackface Sheep Society, Mayo Mule Sheep Society and Tullow Sheep Breeders Society (Suffolk Cheviot Cross)