

Heifer & Hogget Competition 2011

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Keep setting up your online profiles!

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.

Week 2



15-18 Dairy Winner 2010
Glenn Patterson
Co. Sligo
Won Holstein Friesian Heifer

Glenn Patterson, aged 16, was delighted when he won his holstein friesian heifer at last year's competition. He brought home his prize, named Riviera Beauty, to live on his family's dairy farm along with the 40 other cows the Pattersons are currently milking. Glenn claims that within the next five years the family hopes to expand their herd to about 60 cows, and they already have a head start as Riviera gave birth to her own Friesian heifer calf which Glenn will keep as a replacement cow for next year.

Unfortunately Glenn was out on work experience during the actual birth, returning home around 4pm that afternoon to find his father had helped with the calving. After completing secondary school he hopes to attend ag college followed by a year working on a New Zealand dairy farm before settling back down in Co Sligo. He has a brother, currently in Australia, and a sister, neither of whom are interested in farming, so there is a bright future ahead of this young man should he con-



tinue pursuing his passion for agriculture.

ONLINE SHEEP WINNER 2010 James Mullin Co. Donegal Won 2 Charollais Hogget Ewes

From the most northerly point of Ireland, Malin Head, Co Donegal, James Mullin, 16, took the award for the online sheep section of last year's Heifer & Hogget competition. He crossed both of his Charollais ewes with a Suffolk ram, which resulted in twins from one and triplets from the other. Such a fruit-

ful and productive pair are surely evidence that James is a dedicated and devoted keeper. As every farmer knows, producing healthy triplets is no easy task and James must have ensured that the ewes were in prime condition before sending them out with the ram.

Having just completed his Junior Cert, James claims balancing school work and farming is not all that difficult. He plans to keep one or two of his new lambs, and to sell off the rest. He, his sister and two brothers help their parents with the cattle and sheep



at home, and James plans to continue the same after secondary school.

ONLINE BEEF WINNER 2010 Clodagh Ryan Co Tipperary Won a Simmental Heifer

Clodagh, 17 and about to enter her transition year at school. She won a Simmental heifer at last year's Heifer & Hogget competition, which she later bred to a Charollais bull. The heifer is due to calve in early December.

Clodagh lives with her family of two younger sisters, her mother, and her

father who is the manager of the local mart. They have a farm in Thurles, where they breed and raise pedigree cows. Clodagh doesn't have many friends who farm, but they all know she's crazy about cows and were excited to see her in the newspaper after winning last summer. Clodagh, herself, was "absolutely delighted" to hear that she had won. One day she hopes to study veterinary or animal science at UCD, but in the meantime admits that "it's nice to take a break from homework every night and spend an hour or two caring for the animals and looking after the farm."



Question 2

10-14 year olds:

My favourite farming experience or time of year?

15-18 year olds:

If you were Minister for Agriculture, what would you do to encourage young people to farm in this country?

WHEN YOU'VE ANSWERED ALL QUESTIONS PLEASE SEND ENTRIES TO:

- **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)