

Press release

23 November 2013

Winners announced for inaugural Young Livestock Producer competition at Scottish National Premier Meat Exhibition

Competition sponsored by Marks & Spencer ('M&S') in collaboration with Scotbeef and the Scottish Fatstock Club

The Scottish Fat Stock Club has today announced the winners of the newly created 'Young Livestock Producer' competition at the Scottish National Premier Meat Exhibition held at Scotbeef, Bridge of Allan.

The competition, which was sponsored by Marks & Spencer as part of its ongoing commitment to encourage and support young people working in agriculture, saw three new livestock classes created for steers, heifers and sheep, (with three new equivalent deadstock classes) which were open to livestock that meet M&S specification. Classes were open to any young producer between 18 and 26 years of age.

Overall Champions:

The overall champion in the cattle classes was Isla King from Crossrigs Farm, Duns, with the overall champion in the lamb classes being Craig Bell, Craigo, Milnathort. As well as prize money, Isla and Craig win a trip to the EuroTier exhibition in Germany – the world's leading trade fair for animal production.

Reserve Champions:

Reserve champion in cattle was James Young, Girvan Mains, and reserve champion in lamb was Kirsty Morton, Lochend Farm, Denny.

All of the participants will also be invited to take part in a 'walk the supply chain' event with Scotbeef and M&S, so that they can see how each element of the meat supply chain interacts, following product from farm to consumer.

Commenting on the results, Steve McLean, Head of Agriculture & Fisheries at M&S, said:

"The Scottish meat industry is an important supplier to M&S and through our Farming for the Future programme we are committed to supporting young people who are starting out on a career in agriculture. It is great to see so many high quality entries in these new classes, demonstrating the number of young people working in the sector and the market-leading standards that they are achieving."

Suzie England, Head of Agricultural Development at Scotbeef, added:

"We were delighted with the level of interest in this new competition, with 23 cattle entries and a further 23 entries in the sheep classes. The standard of entries was exceptionally high and we are proud that these young producers are being recognised for their dedication to our industry."

In addition to his success in the Young Livestock Producers competition, James Young fought off stiff competition from all other entries to win the Overall Champion in the Italian class – which recognises the carcass most suited to the Italian market.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

About the winners:

Overall Champion – Cattle

Isla is 19 years old and is studying at SRUC in Edinburgh for a degree in rural business management but is always found at home at weekends feeding and drawing stock with her father.

Reserve Champion – Cattle

James Young is 26 years old and has HND in agriculture from Oatridge and has now joined his father and brother in the partnership on his home farm at Girvan Mains.

Overall Champion – Lamb

Craig is a first year agriculture student at Craibstone, Aberdeen and travels home every weekend to help his father on their cattle and sheep farm in Fife.

Reserve Champion – Lamb

Kirsty Morton is 19 years old and studying at Oatridge College. She is a very active member of the Young Farmers and helps her father with their renowned flock of Beltex sheep.

Class judges:

Cattle Classes – Steven Woolley of Woolley Brothers, Sheffield

Lamb Classes – Rodolphe Lepoureau of Sovileg, France

Italian Class – Piercarlo Botta representing the Italian Butchers Association