

Wild and Woolly

It was a very exciting time in the world of Alberta 4-H when the inaugural Alberta 4-H Sheep Show took place July 13 – 15 in Olds, AB. The show, which featured 23 enthusiastic members from across the province, provided an excellent opportunity for 4-Hers to experience project competition at the provincial level for the very first time.

The three-day event saw members compete in a variety of classes and competitions including judging, trimming, combing and conformation. Another exciting and always entertaining competition was the costume class. This portion of the program saw participants dress up one of their project entries into a costume of their choice. Of course the members didn't get off that easy and were also required to be in costume. Many laughs and smiles always accompany this class.

"Having a Provincial 4-H show is a great opportunity. It has been fun to meet other 4-H members in the sheep project and I'm excited I got to participate in the first ever Provincial show," stated Brennan Munro from the Irricana 4-H Beef & Multi Club.

The first Alberta 4-H sheep club was established in 1923 and the project currently features over 100 project members in 31 clubs through the province. The 2011 provincial sheep show saw approximately one-third of all of Alberta's 4-H sheep project members attend the event. "The sheep industry is currently experiencing its strongest market acceptance in years and Alberta's sheep youth are obviously as committed as anyone to raising awareness of sheep production and husbandry," stated Andrea Church, Calgary and South 4-H Regional Specialist.

Presenting Partner of the inaugural Alberta 4-H Sheep Show is Farm Credit Canada, Partner Supporter is the Government of Alberta, and Partner Friends are Alberta Lamb Producers and the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association. Parter Host is the Olds Agricultural Society.