

PUEBLO – Colorado brothers Jason & Chad Russell earned the top honors at the American Junior Simmental Association’s Western Regional on June 13-15 here.

Jason Russell, of Sugar City, earned the high-point senior division honors in the multi-state youth event. He accumulated first-place honors on the herdsmanship quiz, which tested EPD and cattle industry knowledge, and in public speaking, where he drew the topic of Country of Origin Labeling. Russell, 16, also placed in the top four in showmanship, sales talk and the cattle show, held at the Colorado State Fairgrounds. Runner-up for senior division points was Clay Johnson of Longmont, CO and third high was Bryant Brunner of Ramona, KS.

In the junior division, brother Chad Russell earned high-point honors in the under 14 age group. He placed first in public speaking, where he drew the topic of “foot rot,” and in the judging contest. Russell, 11, also placed in the other competitions and with his yearling heifer. Multi-breed judging classes were provided by Cramer Creek Ranch of Ordway, Kruse Livestock of Colorado City and Reflected R Ranch of Sugar City, with Lamar Community College’s livestock judging coach Adrienne Tucker officiating. Runner-up for junior division points was Mason Rains of Oakley, KS and third high was Justin Willard of Reeds, MO.

The *Plains to Peaks Regional* drew participants from four states, said coordinator Bruce German, Colorado Simmental Association’s youth advisor from Longmont. Support came from numerous ranchers and businesses, such as Purina Mills Inc. which provided prizes to the top 8 youth in every competition and Optibrand Ltd. which completed retinal identification scans on all the cattle, German said. Colorado last hosted an American Junior Simmental event in 2001. “We were pleased to put on a fun weekend,” he said.

In the cattle show, division winners were Katie German of Longmont, purebred Simmental steer and bred & owned purebred heifer; Clint Johnson of Longmont, Simbrah steer; Jacoby Post of Hydro, OK, bred & owned percentage heifer; Katie Campbell of Ignacio, purebred cow/calf pair; Logan Puett of Manhattan, KS, purebred heifer and Bryce Kowtewa of Manhattan, KS, percentage heifer. For complete results, go to www.coloradosimmental.com.

Also during the regional, Jason Russell and Katie German were selected as American Junior Simmental trustees. The two Colorado teens will represent the 11-state region on the national board, beginning with Russell attending the AJSA National Classic in Wichita Falls, TX in July.

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