

Phillips County hog wins Tri-State Royal

Written by Brenda Johnson Brandt

County Fair success continued for sixth grader Austin Vieselmeyer when he entered his Grand Champion Market Hog from the Phillips County Fair in the Tri-State Royal in Goodland, Kan. Saturday, Aug. 8.

About 25 county fair champion pigs from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska were judged in one class, with Vieselmeyer's cross-bred hog named "Girly" winning top honors.

The effort earned Vieselmeyer a big belt buckle with blue flames.

Vieselmeyer plans to keep Girly. She will be a breeding gilt to raise show pigs for Austin and his brother Alex, a third grader.

The Vieselmeyer brothers and their parents, Brent and Tina, appreciate the change in county rules this year to give youth the opportunity to exhibit at the Tri-State Royal and to represent this county.

Appreciation was noted for the commissioners, junior livestock committee and fair board for implementing the rule change.

Grand Champion pigs, breeding beef, market beef, goats and sheep can be entered in the Royal, and showman winners may also participate in the Tri-State event.

The Tri-State Royal is not a new arena for Brent Vieselmeyer, as he judged sheep, pigs and cattle there a number of years ago when he was a judging coach/grad student at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

The Royal is held at the end of the Sherman County Fair in Goodland, and offers the chance for kids to see a nice variety of quality animals.

HHS sophomore Mariah Struckmeyer joined the Vieselmeyer family in their trip to the Royal,

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taking the opportunity to experience another level of judging. She showed cattle at the county fair, and wanted to see what the Vieselmeyers had been talking about when describing the Royal.

Austin had an extensive success story from this year's Phillips County Fair. Not only did he show the Grand Champion (GC) pig for the second straight year, he also had the GC breeding beef for the third straight year and the GC market beef, having earned Reserve GC for the previous two years.

Austin entered his GC heifer "True" and his GC steer "Ears" in the Tri-State Royal.

About 20 steers were judged in two classes, and Ears made the top-three cut in his class, but was not in the top-three overall. Thirteen heifers were judged in one class, and the top three were cited.

Ears and True will both be taken to the State Fair this year, according to Austin. He looks forward to that event later this month.

Alex Vieselmeyer took one of his state fair pigs, Little Red, to the Tri-State Royal. Entered in the Old Pro Class for all species, the event was open to all ages. Judging was on the animal only, not showmanship.

Hoping to encourage youth to look at opportunities available to them, the Vieselmeyers welcome any chance to talk more about the Tri-State Royal and other judging competitions.