

McCallum catches calf at National Stock Show

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

It's not every day one sees 11 kids trying to wrestle calves to the ground. But at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, that is exactly what happened.

Trae McCallum a freshman at HHS, filled out an application and wrote an essay back in September and was selected to participate in the catch-a-calf competition at the Stock Show in Denver Tuesday, Jan. 19.

McCallum was one of eight people to win. He started with 11 other kids and when they said "go," they all ran around trying to catch a calf.

The rules were if someone else was touching a calf, that calf was off limits to others.

"I jumped over a kid who fell in front of me and there was a calf," McCallum said.

He received \$1,000 which he has to take and purchase a heifer. As part of the project McCallum has to have his heifer bought by March 1. He then will fill out a bill of sale and present that to the Colorado FFA. He has to write monthly letters to his sponsors, as well.

After he purchases a heifer he will then have to show it at the State Fair in August and his project will be complete at the State FFA convention in 2011.

"I was really happy when I caught it," McCallum said.

He said he was pretty nervous walking out into the arena and preparing to catch a calf in front of the crowd.

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McCallum's sponsors were AA Plumbing and Colorado Young Farmers Education Association.

McCallum said it felt like it only took 30 seconds, but his mom Ranae said he was in the arena for about two minutes.

McCallum plans to keep the heifer as long as he can to start up a herd of his own.

McCallum's dad, Glen, was successful in the catch-a-calf competition when he was in high school in the early 1990s.