Livestock Shows Are All In The Family

Teaching Teachers About Agriculture

Save Money With Alfa Perks
Jefferson County's Tucker Ross is the fourth generation in his family to show livestock. After loading up the trailer for another road trip to a livestock show, his mom, Sammie Lee Stone, carries on a family tradition started by her grandparents by playing Willie Nelson's "On The Road Again."

“I hope this tradition continues as long as our family is involved in livestock shows,” Stone said.

In a year’s time, the family has traveled to Perry, Georgia; Kansas City, Missouri; and Des Moines, Iowa, for regional and national livestock shows.

“Showing pigs is more of a lifestyle than an activity,” said Stone, daughter of Jefferson County Farmers Federation Board member Rhonda Rosser Hughes. "I knew I wanted my children to be involved in showing livestock. We determined we would start with pigs. While they may not have the most pleasant fragrance, we think they’re the most fun.”

At the 2019 State Youth Swine Show in Anniston, 12-year-old Tucker was named showmanship winner in his age division and won Grand Champion Market Hog with his gilt named Binki. A gilt is a female pig that has not given birth.

“My favorite thing about showing livestock is getting to go around the country and meeting new people,” Tucker said.

Tucker and his 4-year-old sister, Charlee Stone, care for four pigs, which includes daily chores of feeding, cleaning and grooming. In fall 2019, they showed their animals at the Alabama National Fair in Montgomery and the North American Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky.

A study from Texas Tech University showed the benefits of becoming a livestock exhibitor include understanding how to accept responsibility, developing friendships and social contacts across the country, visiting a wide variety of cities, learning from a diverse group of people and gaining knowledge about how to care for animals.

For more information on showing pigs, search for Swine Show Information for Alabama on Facebook or attend a livestock show in your area.

Twelve-year-old Tucker Ross drives his pig around the family’s Jefferson County farm as he practices for upcoming livestock shows.

On The Cover
Tucker Ross competes in Showmanship during The Exposition Junior Show at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, Iowa.

McClure Competes In State Contest

Polly McClure of Jefferson County entered the following recipe in the 2019 Heritage Cooking Contest. The annual contest is sponsored by the Alabama Farmers Federation Women’s Leadership Division and highlights a specific commodity. Dairy was the highlighted commodity in 2019.

**Sun Dried Tomato and Pesto Dip**

**Ingredients**
- 16 ounces cream cheese, divided
- 1/2 cup basil pesto
- 1 1/3 cup sun dried tomatoes in oil, julienned
- 16 ounces sour cream
- 2 cups freshly shredded Parmesan cheese
- 3 teaspoons garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme

**Directions**
- Heat oven to 350 F.
- Combine 8 ounces cream cheese and pesto. Spread on bottom of small baking dish, the size of a pie pan.
- Drain tomatoes and pat dry with paper towel.
- Combine remaining ingredients. Mix well. Spread evenly over pesto mixture.
- Bake 25 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serve warm.

For four-year-old Charlee Stone checks on one of her pigs. She and her brother, Tucker Ross, are the fourth generation in the family to show livestock.
AITC Summer Institute is a three-day professional development program. More than 80 teachers for grades K-6 attend free of charge thanks to support from the Alabama Farmers Federation and the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries. In addition to farm tours and educational seminars, attendees receive numerous books, educator guides and resource guides.

“The organizers made sure the attendees received not only the facts about agriculture but also resources to use in the classroom,” said Chaffin, who attended the 2019 program in Florence May 29-31. “I do a farming unit in my kindergarten classroom every year, so the make-and-takes were especially helpful. I couldn’t believe the quality and number of books that we received. They’ll be a great addition to our classroom library.”

Chaffin said she learned she could apply for a small grant. She hopes to receive funding to create a salsa garden next spring at her school.

Shades Valley High School graduate Cameron Humphrey didn’t expect to study agriculture, but a visit to Auburn University’s (AU) College of Agriculture changed his future. He graduated from AU in 2019 with a degree in agriculture business and economics with a minor in political science.

“I would highly recommend that any student pursuing a college degree look at agriculture,” said Humphrey. “It’s a diverse and complex field offering many career choices.”

The Birmingham native served as president of the AU Ag Ambassadors during his senior year. He worked on agriculture policy during a summer internship with U.S. Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Alabama, and is pursuing a master’s degree and juris doctorate at Yale University. He is the son of Robert and Yoni Humphrey.

Through grants, JCFF supports organizations and projects that promote and improve agriculture including FFA chapters, 4-H clubs and other county groups.

Through its scholarship program, JCFF supports students from Jefferson County who study agriculture.

JCFF has awarded five full scholarships to AU College of Agriculture students Christian Baker, Micah Bartlett, Jordan Doss, Nathan Lewis and Doston Nichols.

For more information on the scholarship program, call the office at (205) 477-7857.