



WA College of Agriculture – Morawa Students Showcase Gelbvieh Stud at Show

The Western Australian College of Agriculture – Morawa Gelbvieh Stud will be presenting two bulls, 2 heifers and two cows and calves in the Judging Ring at the Perth Royal Agricultural Show.

Year 12 students who have been specialising in Cattle Production will be leading the Gelbvieh stud in the ring when judging takes place on Monday afternoon.

The students will also be involved in mucking out and feeding the animals early in the morning. General maintenance of the animals, manicuring and conditions of the stalls will be handled by the students under the guidance of Mr. Geoff Baines, Assistant Farm Supervisor.

On the Friday prior to judging the students will be involved in the weighing, and scanning the bulls for fat and eye muscle.

The College has been able to demonstrate outstanding breeding achievements in spite of drought conditions faced over the last two years. Staff at the College are surprised by how well the cattle have maintained condition with minimal hand feeding. This desirable trait makes them ideal for cross breeding with British breeds to produce higher yielding carcasses. Calves demonstrate higher weaning weights and dressing percentage.

Cattle students cover the whole production chain from artificial and natural insemination through to birthing and butchering. They are involved in weighing, recording of birth weights, size and dams. They are also involved in working out breeding strategies for 2009 drop calves.

The Royal Show is an opportunity for students specialising in Cattle to showcase not only the Gelbvieh stud but the skills they have learned in handling large animals as they strive to complete Certificate II in Agriculture.

The College has entered three teams into the Farm Skills Competition, one team of Year 12's and two teams of Year 11's. Each team will comprise of six students picked not only for their skills but more importantly for their ability to work as a team.

The Farm Skills Competition will be held on the Thursday before the Show starts but parents and the public will be there to view the competitions. The events include Fence Construction, Wool Bale Pressing and Branding, Tractor Driving and Safety, GPS Tracking, Sheep Moulding Drafting, Drenching and Weight Assessment, Sheep Appraisal, Prime Lamb, Pig Appraisal, Wool Appraisal, Cutting Steel Plate, Welding Steel Plate, Chemical Safety, Chemical Safety and First Aid.

Over the course of the events students will demonstrate skills they have learned as they strive to complete Certificate II in Agriculture and Certificate I in Construction.

The College received a Top 50 Public Schools Award in 2006 and 2007 and has become a school of choice for students aiming to enter apprenticeships, traineeships and pathways to Muresk and Murdoch University.

The College offers a free try out week of prospective students. For more information please phone 9971 1158 or visit the website www.morawaag.wa.edu.au.



Department of Education and Training
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