

The Casper College livestock judging team is proving to be an extreme competitor at the national level.

The livestock judging team is led by Dr. Jeremy Burkett, head coach and agriculture instructor, and Mr. Jason Johnson, assistant coach.

The sophomore judging team has traveled to seven contests so far, dozens of workouts, and two national contests to come. Their team consists of Wallace graduate Emily Hasenauer, Cade Christensen, Laddy Trehal, Nick Edelman, Dylan Freeman, Makayla Goodnow, Zoey Taucher, Sierra Crisp, Ethan George, Bailey Skinner, Bill Dalles, Lacie Potter, Julia Pawlitzka, Josh Ovard, Sam Schulz, Lucas Drake, Chantz Potter, Katie Dodge, BW Ochsner, Colby Hales, Katy Pannell, Lisa Andreen and Logan Cecil.



They kicked off their year in September at the National Barrow Show, held in Austin, Minn. At the end of the week, the team ended up sixth overall and third in reasons. Individually, Christensen placed fourth in reasons.

At the Flint Hills Classic in Manhattan, Kan., hosted by Kansas State University, the team placed fifth overall, second in sheep, and fifth in cattle. As individuals, Hasenauer made the top 10 in sheep and Cecil placed fifth in cattle. Christensen was also successful after placing second in sheep, fourth in reasons, and finished seventh overall.

At Wichita, Kansas for the Mid-American Classic the team placed 10th, and Hales placed fourth in cattle.

The T-Birds next took flight to the Cornhusker state for the regional show, AK-SAR-BEN. As a team, they placed third overall out of 13 teams and 94 individuals, third in hogs, and also won both cattle and reasons. Trehal placed in the top five in both cattle and hogs. Hales also ended up in the top five in hogs and reasons. To top it off, Skinner was called up second in cattle.

The Tulsa State Fair and the Texas State Fair were next on the agenda. In Tulsa the T-Birds placed in top five of all species, third in reasons, and second overall. This was aided by several individual accomplishments. Ochsner was fourth overall, Freeman placed eighth in reasons, and Christensen ended up third in reasons and won swine. Hales had a very successful day, placing fourth in reasons, second in sheep, and was high individual of the contest.

The team continued to sharpen their edge as they headed to Dallas, Texas. As a team, they were second in sheep and beef, won oral reasons, and were second overall. Skinner placed third in swine, Christensen was fourth in beef, and Dodge was called up third in reasons. Freeman placed in the top 10 overall.

“It was an honor to have the previous coach from Texas A&M tip his hat off to us in terms of consistency in the reasons room. It’s rare to be given such a compliment from someone of great

stature in the judging world,” Hasenauer remarked.

The team is headed to Colorado State University’s mock contest soon, and will complete the fall season traveling to the two national contests at the American Royal in Kansas City, MO and finish with the NAILE in Louisville, KY.

Burkett says, “This team has been the most consistently competitive group in recent memory at Casper College. The work ethic that these students display will surely pay off in success.”