

## **Update from 2005 Illinois winner– Christie Fuller**

It is raining over here at the moment and it has been doing that for about a week now!! I thought I should give you a quick update with what I have done and where I am going.

I attend four classes over here and I am still enrolled in my final three from UNE which I am taking externally. The four classes I attend are: ANSC 100 (Introduction to Animal Science) – this class has a lot of pre-vet students which make up a large population of students at the University of Illinois. This is a very general class that gives an overview of genetics, behaviour, reproduction, companion animals, beef production, nutrition, swine, dairy and horses.

ANSC 213 (Beef and Swine Production) – this course is 8 weeks for Beef and 8 weeks for Swine. At the moment we are studying beef production and management. I have learnt a lot in this class from the perspective of a cow / calf producer to the feedlot producer. Also I have learnt about the producer's aims on the USDA quality and yield grade grid.

ANSC 211 (Breeding Animal Evaluation) – This is a basic judging course that is taught by Dr Parrett and Dan Shike. In this class we learn to evaluate beef, sheep and swine breeding animals. This class has helped me a lot as extra training for the Livestock judging team and the Meat Animal Evaluation team.

ANSC 209 (Market Animal Evaluation) – I find this class to be the most interesting of all of my classes and the one I enjoy the most. In this class we learn to evaluate beef, lambs and swine both alive (Monday) and then on the rail (Wednesday). I have also learnt to Quality Grade and Yield grade carcasses. At first I found it hard it hard to convert to inches and pounds but now I am finding it a lot easier. I have been placing in the top 4 every week across all 3 species out of approx 25 students. My best week was when I placed 1st for beef overall on both the live evaluation and on the rail.

I have spent 6 days a week in training with the Meat / Animal Evaluation Team. We attended a competition on the 17th and 18th February in Madison Wisconsin. This competition is very similar to what we learn in ANSC 209 as well as a breeding animal component. At this competition we won by 300 points. This was also the coldest weekend ever! It was -45 with 20 inches of snow I personally thought I was going to die!!

Spring break is coming up soon and I have more training for the Meat / Animal Evaluation team before we leave for the National Championships that will be held in Oklahoma City at the end of March. I am pretty excited about this. I would like to take this quick opportunity to thank Angus Australia and Dectomax for the wonderful experience I have had so far.

Cheers,

Christie Fuller