

S.A Heifer Expo Report

First I'd like to thank PJ Cattle co, Phil and Jo Mclauchlan for giving me the opportunity to attend. PJ supplied a heifer, and all the gear that's needed. All you have to do is show up and it all up to you. I arrived with my parents, who use any excuse for a holiday, they dropped me off at the gate and I didn't see them again till the last day, when I guess they had to pick me up. Walking into the showground, there wouldn't be anywhere else I'd rather be, you just can't beat a cattle show. Kids and cattle going everywhere, with heaps of unexpected familiar faces. Tracking down Jo Mclauchlan, who does a great job running the show, I was shown to my locker. Any one who has been to Adelaide showground (god bless you) would know how small the lockers are, trying to fit 2 swags and 2 bags plus some is pretty close to impossible, but that just adds to the fun.

This wouldn't be any sort of a report if I didn't mention the 'East coast crew', which was formed. This include just about anyone from NSW and VIC, namely Caitlin and Lauren Berecny, Gordon and Dianna Branson, Chad Williamson and myself. Together we made a pretty good team, working together and we all got a fair haul of prizes by the end, which I think wouldn't have been done without this team. Go the 'East Coast Crew'.

First morning everyone was up early, plenty to learn with several lectures to attend with a stand out lecture being the auctioneering, which I was lucky enough to be picked for to compete in an auctioneering competition the next day. The lectures which were presented were all good with a good range of the industry represented. Also just to add to the fun a written marketing assignment was handed out. That night everyone was up, the seniors clipping away, and every one else socializing chatting about that day, and about that damned assignment.

Up early again it was cattle judging day, kicked off with junior judging. I was pumped, after just attending the fabulous Tocal Beef Cattle assessment course the week before. I had the class done and dusted within minutes, ready to give my comment to over judge Mr. Lachlan Day. After lunch it was straight into the cattle classes, judged by the well known Mr. Peter Collins and with some very good animals there the going was tough.

Later that night was the auctioneering competition and gosh didn't this get the heart pumping, trying to pull together all I knew of this new found skill whilst standing in front of a shed full of people. But for anyone thinking of traveling down next year I recommend you to give it a try. Early 'ish' to bed that night ready for the big day ahead tomorrow.

The last day started with a big breakfast, the caterers always put on a yummy spread of food, and you never went hungry. Handler classes started early, judged by Mrs. Leanne Nielson. The east coast crew was in full swing and a lot of fun was had preparing our heifers, of course done as a team effort.

Just as quick as it started it was over. Several new friends were made, and it was truly a great experience. I'll hopefully head back next year as a senior to attack all the extra challenges like clipping and of course that herdsman prize.

Lastly once again I'd like to take PJ Cattle Co., for giving me the opportunity. And make sure you tick the box on your Roundup entry form, and have a go.

Kate Boardman,
2008 SA PJ Cattle Co Heifer Show Award Winner