

South Carolina Red Angus Juniors

Four young people from Iva and Gray Court, South Carolina capped off a busy summer and fall by exhibiting their Red Angus cattle at the South Carolina State Fair in Columbia, SC. The exhibitors, brothers, Will and Jake Turner, from Iva and sisters, Bethany and Erica Prescott, from Gray Court started halter-breaking and training their FFA and 4-H project calves early this summer before competing at the SC Junior Beef Round-Up in August at Clemson's T. Ed Garrison Arena. During the weekend in Clemson, Jake's yearling heifer, Red Lazy MC Express 71X, was named Reserve Champion Female, and all four young people won awards for their participation in the Beef Ambassador and scholarship competitions. In the Beef Ambassador competition, participants were evaluated on their knowledge of beef and the beef industry as they participated in a sales talk competition, a written essay, an interview, a written test, and showmanship competition. When the dust finally settled, Will Turner was named 2012 SC Beef Ambassador and will represent SC at the national contest next year in CA. Will plans to promote the nutritional value of beef and tell the story of SC's beef producers in 2012, by participating in numerous consumer education programs around the state. Bethany Prescott and Jake Turner, finished second and third in the Beef Ambassador contest and received \$500.00 and \$250.00 savings bonds respectively for their efforts. Bethany and Erica Prescott were also recipients of the Driftwood Plantation Scholarship and T. Ed Garrison/Coca-Cola Scholarship, awarded at Round Up. From there, the juniors participated in a number of county and area livestock shows in Georgia and South Carolina while balancing their livestock projects with school and other activities. At the SC State Fair, Bethany, Erica and Jake were all busy competing for two scholarships sponsored by the SC State Fair and South Carolina Farm Bureau. Will won the scholarship in 2009, and this year Bethany Prescott picked up one of the coveted awards after completing a written test, essay, cattle judging, showmanship, and an interview. In addition, Jake took Grand Champion Female honors in the open and junior shows with Red Lazy MC Express 71X, and Bethany and Erica were awarded with Reserve Champion Female in the open show with Bull Hill Susie 9065 and Grand Champion Bull with Bull Hill Capitan' 0118. Meanwhile, Will's heifer calf, won Reserve Champion female in the Junior show. These young people were also busy during the weekend at the fair answering questions from fair goers regarding the Red Angus breed, beef quality and farming and ranching practices in SC. While there is a healthy spirit of competition between the four Red Angus enthusiasts, they all work together to promote the Red Angus breed and pursue excellence. Their hard work certainly appears to be paying off!