



2010 MERA/Manitoba 4-H Young Horse Development Project Presentations Highly Successful

(September 18, 2010 – Brandon, MB) --- The thirteenth annual presentations of the Manitoba 4-H Young Horse Development Project (YHDP) were held September 6, 2010 at the Westoba Agricultural Centre of Excellence, in Brandon, Manitoba. The YHD Project, launched in 1998, is a joint initiative of Manitoba 4-H and the Manitoba Equine Ranching Association (MERA) and the Saskatchewan Equine Ranching Association (SERA), both members of the North American Equine Ranching Information Council (NAERIC). The project provides a venue for senior 4-H members to demonstrate their knowledge gained through the 4-H Equine Program, as well as to showcase the stock being bred and raised on Manitoba's equine ranches.

Each year, interested senior 4-H members (14 years of age by January 1 of the current year) apply to the YHD Project's Working Committee. Upon selection, members are given a list of participating MERA and SERA ranchers from whom they may purchase a weanling. Prices are pre-set and ranchers receive half of the purchase price; the balance is placed in that year's Project Enhancement Fund.

The YHD Project involves a two-year commitment, and teaches 4-H members valuable life skills about taking responsibility, setting goals, and applying their knowledge gained. Members raise and train their horses with the objective of presenting them as a yearling "in hand", and as a two-year-old "under saddle". Members receive payouts by participating in the yearling presentations (1/3 of the Enhancement Fund); participating in the two-year-old presentations (the remaining 2/3 of the fund); completing their project books; and by adhering to the rules and regulations. Formal placings for the presentations are irrelevant. Members receive an Enhancement Fund payout based on their individual efforts so that the experience of their presentation will be self-achieving.

In 2010, seven 4-H members exhibited their Quarter Horse yearlings "in hand". They were evaluated on the elements of basic showmanship skills, conditioning of the horses, and their abilities to teach their horses to work on a longe line and to load into a trailer. Scores ranged from 172 points to 218.5 points, out of 260 possible points. The members earned a share of the 2009 Enhancement Fund. As a group, they accumulated 1408.5 points, averaging 201 each, and will be paid based on their individual scores.



Yearling presenter Kevin McCullough with his Quarter Horse, **Doc N Peppy**, bred by Dean & Debbie Fenty, D5 Performance Horses.

2010 Yearling Presentations (in order of appearance):

4-H Club:	4-H Member:	Horse's Name:	Participating Ranchers:
<i>St. Malo Ghost Riders</i>	Evelin Isenschmid	<i>Tuckers Joe Jack</i>	Vaughan Mayert, Sandy Ridge Ranch Morden, MB
<i>Ethelbert 4-H Light Horse & Beef Club</i>	Monica Coffey	<i>Blue Lady Diamonds</i>	Bruce Farquhar/Candace Bergeson Rafter F Ranch, Birtle, MB
<i>Brandon Ghost Riders</i>	Geralea De Yageher	<i>DF Miss Priss</i>	Dean & Debbie Fenty D5 Performance Horses, Miniota, MB
<i>Minnedosa Western Riders 4-H Club</i>	Heather Woodcock	<i>Mail N The Chocolate</i>	Greg & Faye Little Little Valley Quarter Horses, Decker, MB
<i>Stoney Ridge Riders</i>	Carla Plett	<i>Lopinonacommodity</i>	Kevin & Julie Bridgeman K & J Bridgeman Farms Inc. Binscarth, MB
<i>Brandon Ghost Riders</i>	Molly Jay	<i>Hope Te Be A Milonaire</i>	Duncan Campbell/ Cathy Gerrand DAC Farms, Viriden, MB
<i>Graysville Light Horse & Pony Club</i>	Kevin McCullough	<i>Doc N Peppy</i>	Dean & Debbie Fenty D5 Performance Horses, Miniota, MB

Kevin McCullough, 15, of Carmen, Manitoba, is in grade eleven at Carmen Collegiate. Kevin presented his yearling Quarter Horse gelding, *Doc N Peppy*, “in hand”. Kevin said, “I chose my yearling because I liked everything about him. I liked his pedigree and I wanted a gelding. I need a performance horse for rodeo events as I’m planning to team rope with him at High School rodeos and local events in the future.” Kevin grew up with horses, has been a team roper for two years, and has been in 4-H since he was nine. This is Kevin’s first time to participate in the YHD Project. “So far, this project has taught me how to properly train a young horse. I learned on an older horse first, but needed to know how to handle and train a young prospect.” Kevin chose *Doc N Peppy* from an offering of weanlings bred by Dean and Debbie Fenty “This was my first introduction to the Fenty family. I did not know them before, but I knew of their performance bred bloodlines,” said Kevin.

Doc N Peppy, was bred by D5 Performance Horses at Miniota, Manitoba. Dean and Debbie Fenty and their three sons, Doyle, Derek and Danny have been involved with equine ranching since 1992. “The focus behind our breeding program is working bloodlines,” said Debbie, “first based on intelligence, for without it you won’t have trainability. Second is conformation and athletic ability, without it you will be unable to perform the task at hand. Competitive spirit is important for you must have the “want” to have the win. Speed and good looks are added bonuses.” The Fenty family has been involved in the Rodeo arena for many years, with many titles and awards to their credit. Their horses can be seen at many functions around Manitoba such as the 4-H Young Horse Development Project (with two yearlings and two two-year-olds presented in 2010), the Southwest Ranch Horse Association, the 60 Day Challenge, held in conjunction with the Rocking W Sale preview at Horse 3 and various rodeos throughout the year. Debbie said, “We have been involved with the YHDP since the beginning and have had at least half-a-dozen weanlings chosen. What better way is there to get a good quality weanling for a reasonable price and get good guidance for training it throughout. We were pleased because we knew if our horses were chosen they would get a chance to do something and these youth all seem to make an effort to participate at the presentations. They also provide us with updates as to how their horses are doing, and that’s really nice to know.”

In early June, 2010 the YHD Project members participated in clinics designed to help them improve their horsemanship skills. Larry Clifford of Shilo, Manitoba assisted the yearling handlers with a half-day longe line clinic. Garth Helstrom of Gimli, Manitoba assisted the two-year-old handlers with an evening under saddle clinic, both sponsored by NAERIC.

The YHD Project evaluator was Bev McLeod of Brandon, Manitoba. Bev, a member of the family-owned operation of Thunderbird Horse Centre, said, “We have been breeding, training, and showing horses for about 35 years.” Bev is a barley genetics technician and has worked at the Brandon Research Station for 30 years, as well as being actively involved with the horse industry as an exhibitor, judge and horse photographer. “I was first involved with this YHD Project in year one, when I photographed all the horses and participants. Since then I have evaluated on more than one occasion. What I am seeing is an improvement each year regarding the quality and conformation of the prospects. And, the presentation by the members is more professional, their horses are better conditioned, in terms of feeding and hair coat. There is no comparison to the early years of this project. That first year, the “under saddle” horses were just barely loping, now they are right on the mark. These members have the opportunity to work with a quality product for a reasonable cost. They learn valuable life and work lessons about ‘what you put in - you get out; the harder you work – the better it will be for you financially. There needs to be more programs like this. I have found that anyone who has been involved in a 4-H

program usually has a better work ethic. When you have horses you have to learn responsibility to feed and care for your horse 7 days a week. This carries forward into your later life.”

Following each group’s presentations, McLeod provided constructive criticism to the 4-H members, relative to the project’s scoring criteria and indicating what she, as an evaluator, was looking for in their presentations. She said, “As far as advice to these presenters, I suggested the yearling handlers pay attention to the two-year-old handlers – what they did and how they looked. They would be able to tell by watching the others who stood out. They could also go to other horse shows and see who is placing and how they present themselves.”

Ten 4-H members presented their two-year-old Quarter Horses, a Paint Horse, and a Thoroughbred-Percheron crossbred, “under saddle”. Each horse and rider was scored based on their individual performance over a predetermined horsemanship pattern. Scores ranged from 149 points to 210.5 points out of a possible 245 points. The members earned a share of the 2008 Enhancement Fund. As a group, they accumulated 1824.5 points, averaging 182 each, and will be paid based on their individual scores. Each member received a copy of their evaluation, a tri-coloured neck banner and a trophy horse cooler, sponsored by NAERIC.



Two-Year-Old presenter Jessica Funk, with her Quarter Horse DF Quincy Streak, bred by Dean & Debbie Fenty, D5 Performance Horses.

2010 Two-year-olds Under Saddle Presentations (in order of appearance):

4-H Club:	4-H Member:	Horse’s Name:	Participating Ranchers:
<i>Manitou Sunset Riders</i>	Jami Worms	<i>Impressive Perfection</i>	Kirk & Gail Bridgeman Bridgeman Land & Livestock

			Rapid City, MB
MacNutt Light Horse 4-H Club	Jessica Funk	DF Quincy Streak	Dean & Debbie Fenty D5 Performance Horses, Miniota, MB
Archie 4-H Light Horse & Pony Club	Joel Lewis	DACS Black Jac	Duncan Campbell/ Cathy Gerrand DAC Farms, Virden, MB
Ethelbert 4-H Light Horse & Beef Club	Monica Coffey	DF Quincy Kid	Dean & Debbie Fenty D5 Performance Horses, Miniota, MB
Mountview 4-H Club	Allison Fisher	RF Blue N Smooth	Richard & Jill Witty Royston Farms, Russell, MB
Brandon Ghost Riders	Geralea De Yaegher	DC Hollywood Lady	Dan & Colleen Mullin Clay Ranch, Cartwright, MB
Graysville Lt Horse & Pony Club	Amy Bartley	Phantom Dream Orphan	Vaughan Mayert, Sandy Ridge Ranch Morden, MB
MacNutt Light Horse 4-H Club	Kassidy Petruk	Critical Decision	Greg & Teresa Johnston Flying G Ranch, Arcola, SK
Prairie Pride Riders	Jenna Cook	Lil Bit a Scotch	Greg & Faye Little Little Valley Quarter Horses, Decker, MB
Archie 4-H Light Horse & Pony Club	Aaron Lewis	Classic Jade	Bruce Farquhar/Candace Bergeson Rafter F Ranch, Birtle, MB

Jessica Funk, 16, is in grade 11 at Goose Lake High School in Roblin, Manitoba. Jessica presented her two-year-old Quarter Horse gelding, *DF Quincy Streak*, “under saddle”. Jessica said, “I chose my gelding because I liked him when I saw him out in the pasture. He was nice looking, with good conformation and bones and his papers were pretty good. He’s more of a ranch type horse, which is what I wanted because I need an all-around horse. I’m going to try Barrel Racing with him, because he has lots of speed. But if that doesn’t work out, we’ll find him another job. I learned that it takes a lot of patience and horsemanship skills to start a young colt. You need to go slow - if you don’t it backfires because they are young and slow learners. This YHD project has been good for me. It’s my first time through with a young horse and will be helpful in the future because I can use this experience to start colts for myself. When I chose *DF Quincy Streak*, it was the first time that I met the breeders Dean & Debby Fenty and they offered us a good group of weanlings to choose from.”



*Two-Year-Old presenter Allison Fisher with her Quarter Horse, **RF Blue N Smooth**, bred by Richard & Jill Witty, Royston Farms.*

Allison Fisher, 16, is in grade 11 at Dauphin Collegiate in Dauphin, Manitoba. Allison presented her two-year-old gelding, **RF Blue N Smooth**, bred by Royston Farms. Allison said, "I chose my gelding because he's pretty, well balanced and has good muscle. I plan to keep him and use him in Ranch Horse Versatility competitions." Allison already competes at fairs, in rodeos and in Ranch Horse competitions with the Southwest Ranch Horse Association. She's an all-around competitor who exhibits in both english and western tack and even does goat-tying. She said, "I learned you need lots of patience with a young horse. It's better to keep bad habits out of them than to try and take them away later. It takes lots of time and feel to get what you want out them. This was a great learning experience for me as my future plans are to become a large animal veterinarian."

Richard and Jill Witty own and operate Royston Farms at Russell, Manitoba. They were involved in the equine ranching industry for 25 years and now operate a commercial cattle ranch with a herd of Angus-Simmental crossbreds, and have kept a few of their Quarter Horse broodmares. Richard and Jill have two children. Richard said, "Our son, Carson is nine and our daughter Lane is four. All of our family rides horses and our two kids ride to check the cows with me. We participate in the Southwest Ranch Horse Association as well as this 4-H YHD project and have had a couple of prospects selected. We chose to participate in the YHD project because we were in 4-H ourselves. We love to have the opportunity to get some of our colts out and it's a good opportunity for the members. From what I can see the members are getting a lot out of the program, as the 4-H leaders are teaching them how to raise the horse, how to budget for costs, and whether or not they can even afford a horse. 4-H has changed by leaps and bounds since I was a kid. Now there are nice young colts available at a reasonable cost. It's a great idea - good for the industry and good for the colts."

Leanne Sprung, 4-H & Youth Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Brandon, Manitoba said, “We have a total of 2,556 Manitoba 4-H members in 2009-2010, and 522 equine projects were undertaken. This project provides an opportunity for members to establish relationships with Manitoba and Saskatchewan equine ranchers and to own and develop a young horse. The members gain advanced skills in selecting, feed and handling horses and an increased awareness of the equine industry.”



Group photograph) of two-year-old presenters: (l to r): Allison Fisher, Jessica Funk, Amy Bartley, Joel Lewis, Monica Coffey, Jenna Cook, Geralea De Yaegher, Aaron Lewis, Jami Worms, Kassidy Petruk, Evaluator: Bev McLeod.

Lynn Coffey, the Chairperson of the YHD Project’s Working Committee said, “There were nine senior 4-H members approved to select weanlings in 2010, since we have a commitment from MERA and SERA ranchers and NAERIC to continue this program through to the 2012 ‘under saddle’ presentations. We are grateful to MERA and SERA for sponsoring the fees to cover our project evaluator. We also appreciate the ongoing support of the individual equine ranchers who offer their weanlings, and NAERIC for sponsoring the cost of awards, facilities - including the arena and stabling, post event press releases, and colour photographs for the members and ranchers, and for administering the YHDP Enhancement funds. Each yearling presenter received a copy of their evaluation, a tri-coloured neck banner and a Horse Industry Handbook – A Guide to Education, Care and Management, published by the American Youth Horse Council, sponsored by NAERIC. Each two-year-old presenter received a copy of their evaluation, a tri-coloured neck banner and an embroidered cooler, sponsored by NAERIC.”



Group photograph of yearling presenters: (l to r) Kevin McCullough, Carla Plett, Molly Jay, Monica Coffey, Geralea De Yaegher, Evelin Isenschmid, Heather Woodcock, Evaluator: Bev McLeod.

Parents of the 4-H members praised the YHD Project's Working Committee, consisting of Lynn Coffey, Ethelbert; Susan De Yaegher of Minto; Jocelyn Kish, Brandon; Kristine O'Connor, Brandon; and Chantel and Melanie Colli, Hamiota; for providing this value-added 4-H Light Horse Project. Committee members Kristine O'Connor and Chantel Colli are former YHDP participants. Approximately one-half of the 4-H members intend to keep their project horses for pleasure or showing in the future. The other half indicated they expect to sell their project horses.

For more information regarding the 4-H Young Horse Development Project, and to view photographs of all the 4-H members with their horses visit: www.naeric.org.

About NAERIC

NAERIC is a non-profit association of equine ranchers that serves its members, the horse industry and general public as an agribusiness resource by providing the latest information and research on all aspects of the equine ranching industry—including equine ranch management, horse care, breeding practices and innovative marketing programs. For complete information, visit www.naeric.org

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Photographs by Wilf Davis. Written by Marnie Somers.