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Chiefland FFA members earn top titles in SRF Poultry Show



Poultry Judge Jackie Koedatich (center) presents Chiefland FFA members Burlynn Majeris (right) with the grand champion trophy and Hunter Sharp (left) with the reserve champion trophy.

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Story and Photo

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FANNING SPRINGS -- Chiefland Middle High School FFA earned the top two titles in the poultry competition at the Suwannee River Fair Youth Livestock Show and Sale (SRF) Friday (March 8).

Burlynn Majeris won grand champion and her friend Hunter Sharp won reserve champion.

Majeris and Sharp competed in the horse show Saturday (March 9) at the fairgrounds too.

Majeris, 15, was in her first poultry competition but said she got some helpful advice from an old friend when she bought three birds during a local auction. One of them became the grand champion.

She said she knew she had a good entry but couldn't be certain she would win with Sharp in the competition.

"I thought she was a decent chicken but going up against Hunter and his chickens I was kind of skeptical," Majeris said.

Sharp has been showing poultry since he was 8 years old.

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The chicken he showed won grand champion at the Orange Classic show in Gilchrist County recently.

He said Poultry Judge Jackie Koedatich indicated there wasn't much that separated his chicken from Burlynne's except her bird showed more maturity.

"In the end she had a better chicken and I'm almost glad she won because she worked hard on her chicken and prepared it well for the competition," Sharp said.

Cedar Key Girl wins SRF Rabbit Show



Rabbit Show Judge Jeff Albright presents Grand Champion honors to Reese Solowski (right) of Cedar Key and Reserve Champion honors to Kayden Davis of the Dixie County Wranglers 4-H (left). The winners received ribbons, trophies and belt buckles.

FANNING SPRINGS -- Cedar Key FFA member Reese Solowski won the Suwannee River Fair Youth Livestock Show and Sale (SRF) rabbit competition with a rabbit she raised from a tiny fluff of fur to become grand champion on Friday (March 8).

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Lane Rollison, 5, of the Dixie County Wranglers 4-H Club leaves the show ring with his certificate, green ribbon and rabbit Slider in tow. He said he enjoyed showing his rabbit in the Cloverbud competition.

Kayden Davis of Dixie County Wranglers 4-H Club won reserve champion.

Solowski, a sixth grader at Cedar Key School who earns straight "A"s, raises show rabbits as a sideline. Her company is called Reese's Rabbit Tree.

Her show rabbit, Cakatiniss is from her line of rabbits. Some of her other rabbits in the show earned Best of Breed.

"I have 30 rabbits. I really like animals and I want to be a veterinarian when I'm older," she said.

She is an accomplished horse rider and competed in Saturday's

(March 9) SRF horse show. Her favorite horse competition is barrel racing.

During the program Friday, Rabbit Show Judge Jeff Albright said he was pleasantly surprised by the quality of rabbits. He said the championship class was quality rabbits.

"I was pleasantly surprised," he said.

Albright took the time to educate all the competitors about their rabbits. The smallest rabbit contestants, the Cloverbuds, ages 5-8, received a green participation ribbon and a certificate. They were also schooled about their rabbits.

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Vaden Lemieux of Wekiva Run 4-H Club listens closely as Rabbit Judge Jeff Albright educates him about his rabbit Gizmo. Vaden took part in the Cloverbud portion of the show.



The championship class of exhibitors in the rabbit show watch with great interest as Judge Jeff Albright carefully examines every rabbit to find the best two in the show.