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Denmark students win Merino judging

Farm Weekly, Perth

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By KYAH PEETI

MAKING a comeback was the Western Australian College of Agriculture (WACOA), Denmark, after winning first place in the WSD Agribusiness WA State Ag School Merino Judging Challenge, finishing with a score of 306 out of a possible 400 points in the competition last week at the Rabobank WA Sheep Expo & Ram Sale at Katanning.

The WACOA Denmark students that made up the winning team were Izzy Venn, Alison Findlay, Dakota Dalton and Jesse Oldfield.

In second place was WACOA Cunderdin, with a score of 289 points, followed by WACOA Narrogin, with a score of 281 points, and WACOA Harvey, with a score of 270 points in fourth.

The challenge required the students to judge four stud rams from various studs and order them accordingly depending on their quality overall.

The students were judged on their presentation (dress standard and OHS compliance), handling (mouthing technique, fleece opening technique, manner and low stress stock handling) and oral assessment (terminology, fault identification, accuracy and public speaking manner).

The students were given eight minutes to judge the rams before they had to provide judge, Peter Gelmi, with an oral presentation and reasoning for the order they placed the rams.

Each student was individually scored out of 100, with their points going toward the college's overall score (maximum 400 points).

The four students who won the individual challenge and qualified for the Perth Royal Show were, in first place, Koltyn Tholstrup (WACOA Cunderdin), followed by Jesse Oldfield (WACOA Denmark), Shanaya Blatchford (WACOA Harvey) and Sam Waters (WACOA Harvey).

Mr Gelmi was pleased with the outcome of the event and said all students represented their schools well and did a great job of judging.

"The aim of the event is to expose

the students to the judging atmosphere and teach them terminology and how to present yourself while you do that, no matter what type of judging it may be," Mr Gelmi said.

"Although it's a team event, individual winners will qualify for the Perth Royal Show, we will take the top four students out of the 16 competitors.

"There are some really talented young judges out there."

WSD Agribusiness sponsor representative Marcia Devenney said she was delighted to be sponsoring the competition for the second year in a row.

"We encourage the youth of agriculture, it's so great to see all of the students coming through to give judging a go and we cannot wait until next year," Ms Devenney said.



□ The top two individual Merino judging winners Koltyn Tholstrup (left), WACOA Cunderdin, in first place and Jesse Oldfield, WACOA Denmark, in second place with sponsor representative, WSD Agribusiness's Marcia Devenney.



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WA College of Agriculture Narrogin’s Colin Batt (left), and students Tyson Lansdell, Levi Wagenknecht, Libby Hardingham and Aaron Schilling with sponsor WSD Agribusiness’s Marcia Devenney. Narrogin placed third in the competition.



WA College of Agriculture Harvey’s Steve Adams (left), with his students Steve Waters, Charlotte Telini-Mazza, Paige Kirk and Shanaya Blatchford who placed fourth in the competition with sponsor WSD Agribusiness’s representative Marcia Devenney.



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WA College of Agriculture Cunderdin’s Wayne Laird (left), with the second-placed team in the WSD Agribusiness State Ag School Merino Judging Challenge, Cunderdin college’s Frazer Sutherland, Damon Topham, Jacob Smith, Kolyne Tholstrup and sponsor WSD Agribusiness’s representative Marcia Devenney.



WA College of Agriculture Denmark’s Roger Schulz (left), with the WA State Ag School Merino Judging Challenge winning team of students Alison Findlay, Izzy Venn, Dakota Dalton, Jesse Oldfield and competition sponsor WSD Agribusiness’s representative Marcia Devenney.