



The VIEW FROM HERE

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If you are one of the scores of people who played a role in hosting the 2008 National Junior Limousin Show & Congress and All-American Limousin Futurity, please reach around and give yourself a big ol' pat on the back.

Sure it was a little toasty a couple of days in Sioux Falls, but I would go back in a second to escape the 107 degree temperatures we have here today in Oklahoma.

Nearly 200 North American Limousin Junior Association (NALJA) members from 25 states took part in the "Trail to Excellence" in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Anyone who has ever been involved in planning and executing a Limousin Junior National can attest to the fact these things don't just happen by themselves.

When it was all said and done, more than 530 head walked through the show ring and scores of juniors competed in events ranging from photography to judging to public speaking.

It takes a Herculean effort by the many volunteers needed to host an event such as this. Limousin producers, whether they made the trip to Sioux Falls or not, should be proud of their peers' ability to join together and work toward achieving a common goal—create a healthy environment where our young people can come together to compete, learn and have fun. The fact the rest of us were privileged enough to get a firsthand look as some of the best Limousin cattle in the business was just icing on the cake.

Showing cattle isn't cheap and nobody ever said it was easy, but you couldn't tell it by the looks on the faces of Limousin juniors, moms, dads, grandparents and other family members and friends who made the trip to Sioux Falls. Whether they were popping balloons with their bellies, feasting on watermelon and ice cream sundaes, watching authentic indian dances or competing in the show ring and satellite events, the kids and those who came to help and support them enjoyed the atmosphere created by the volunteers from South Dakota and Minnesota.

I've been to my fair share of ball games, piano recitals and the like, and while they definitely serve their purpose, for my money, youth livestock projects are where it is at. Many of the same lessons can be learned at your local, state and regional events, Junior Nationals just happens to be the pinnacle event of Limousin livestock projects.

If you have never been to the breed's largest event, you don't know what you are missing. The good news is plans are already under way for the 2009 National Junior Limousin Show in Congress July 11-17 in Amarillo, Texas. With a name like the "Big Texas Shindig 2" it is hard to imagine those who attend won't be glad they did.

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