

Charolais Charbray International Youth Program



Charolais International Youth Delegates received a welcome gift from the Canadian Charolais Association. L-R: Sarah Nesbitt, Australia; István (Stevie) Gosztola, Hungary; Kaitlyn Davlin, United States; Heather Gee-Taylor, New Zealand; Keiro Peeter Kottisse, Estonia; Emma Owen, New Zealand; Markus Ylikangas, Estonia; Sarah Armstrong, Ireland; Cathal Gormley, Ireland; Darwin Rosso, CCA Past-President, Moose Jaw; Craig Scott, CCA General Manager, Olds, AB

The planning for the second International Youth Program changed after last year's event. Due to the severe drought in Australia, they decided to withdraw from hosting. As the United States was already committed for 2020 and other countries had projects on the go for this year, Helge and Candace By opted to host it again in Canada.

The youth gathered in Regina on Monday, July 22nd, from Hungary, Australia, New Zealand, Estonia, Ireland and the United States.

Tuesday they spent a day walking off the travel cramps and adjusting to the time zone. They toured the city, the Legislative Building, Royal Saskatchewan National History Museum, RCMP Heritage Centre and went 5 Pin Bowling. It seems odd, but none of these guests had ever played 5 Pin. They only have seen or played 10 Pin.

Wednesday they arrived at CCYA and got introduced to their herdsman groups and started with the events of the week. They participated in every activity and for some of the group, they experienced many firsts. Some had never participated in a cattle show or showmanship competition. Many had never been in a meat packing facility and seeing the steers they judged at the start of the week was an exceptional experience. Even participants coming from established youth programs found the variety of opportunities to judge cattle in the Canadian Conference was more varied.

Following the CCYA Conference and Show, the participants had an opportunity to tour Beck Farms, Elder Charolais, Rosso Charolais, Howe Family Farm, Horseshoe E Charolais and Palmer Charolais. They enjoyed The Chicago Connection Tunnels

of Moose Jaw tour and an evening at the Temple Gardens Mineral Spa. The Buffalo Plains Feedlot, with strong emphasis on calm cattle handling, nutrition and wellness, was a highlight.

The nine youth returned to their respective countries with new friends, new ideas and a pledge to return to Canada in the future. Helge and I would like to thank the operations that welcomed these young people for tours, prepared food and answered their questions. We would also like to thank the CCYA participants and organizers for including them and making them feel welcome. Lastly, we would like to thank the international participants for being a great group. We look forward to seeing you in your home.

Each of the participants shared some of their highlights:

Kaitlyn Davlin, United States

I really enjoyed learning new things about the Canadian youth association, how they run their Conference and see how the kids

are so involved. It really is a youth event with very little adult involvement. I also really enjoyed getting to tour the farms and see everyone's different type of cattle. What I will take home is the realization of the differences between the American and Canadian cattle. I also appreciated learning about some different bloodlines this week that some really great ranches have utilized that I would like to utilize in my program. The International Program is very important because we need to be open to learning new things and this program is an opportunity to do that. Especially for people that came from really far away. I know they have been enlightened to different types of cattle and I hope I can travel to their countries someday to see their cattle.

István Gosztola, Hungary

I liked everything about this trip. CCYA was a definite highlight. I really enjoyed Team Marketing with Sarah

Nesbitt, from Australia, and Team Grooming with Cathal Gormley and Sarah Armstrong, both from Ireland. I will take home everything from this trip, the CCYA experience was all new and different for me. The international program is very valuable.

Cathal Gormley, Ireland

The herd visits were really great to see and Buffalo Plains feedlot was also wonderful. How the Charolais have adapted to a different

climate in this region is really something. They are structurally correct and are completely different from what is at home, which is a more muscled breed. I really like how the breeders are breeding for calving ease, which is what the commercial man wants. The pedigree breeders have adapted to that when purchasing their bulls as well. I really liked how enthusiastic they were in the feedlot, how they mind their cattle and that they are so concentrated on their data and their tags for tracability in the feedlot. I am definitely going to take some things from the youth program home. I thought it was a very friendly program. Definitely last year, the Irish representatives took ideas home. Michael (who works for the Irish Charolais Society) established a program with similarity to CCYA but I would like to take some other ideas home to improve our program and develop the youth in Ireland. The International program was wonderful, I have made 8 new international friends and many very friendly Canadians. I saw a different part of the world where they are breeding different cattle than I am and making it work for their customers. I enjoyed seeing the tourist attractions and the countryside where it is so flat in some parts and then hilly in other parts. I also see how the climate is similar to Ireland in some ways and very different in others and the cattle have to adapt.

Emma Owen, New Zealand

I really liked the CCYA show culture where all of the kids worked together. I really liked the herd tours and appreciated the principles

behind the programs. I would like to take home the values behind the youth show. Heather and I would like to implement something like it in New Zealand and change the systems for our youth. The International Program is a great way to network with the other International youth and Canadians. Everyone has a different type of cattle to suit their country, it

was really interesting to see what other people liked, why they liked them and what works in their part of the world. Thank you for everything.

Sarah Nesbitt, Australia

I enjoyed CCYA the most and the involvement of all the youth, how they work together in herdsman groups and how

it was run very hands on. I really enjoyed the Keep and Cull event. I thought it was very interesting, not only for the seniors, but also for the youth. It was good to understand what people are looking for in the industry. There was no right or wrong answer and it was your preference in the stock and how you explained it. The International Program is a very good experience and I have enjoyed it a lot and learned a lot. It was great to come here and meet like minded individuals that share our passion for the Charolais industry. It was good to have a look at their programs and see how different, but alike we are in the breed, to see what they are breeding towards and how the industry works in Canada.

Sarah Armstrong, Ireland

My favourite part was getting to judge the steers and placing them how we thought they graded best. Then we actually got to

see the steers hanging up. It was definitely something we would never see at home, we would never be allowed in the factory. Seeing them in the flesh alive and then dead and we could actually see where we graded them down, we could see that we were right. I will definitely take home some management practices. Here you are very exact about calving at 24 months. At home we do that but it isn't emphasized like here. I will consider bringing it from 27 or 28 months to 24 at our farm to get that extra calf when they are younger and

obviously more or a profit. I thought the International program was really well run and we were all involved in our groups, they really took us under their wing. The younger kids really thought it was interesting that we were from a different country and were always asking us what it was like in our home and how it was different from them. I enjoyed seeing all of the different farms, and how everybody is different here. Not everyone is painted with the same brush over here with livestock and they all have their own systems. It was good to see people developing their own program instead of everyone using the same genetics. It was really good and thank you for having me.

Markus Ylikangas, Estonia



I loved the last ten days. I learned so many new things, like fitting and showmanship. I have been at shows before but I have not ever participated in a show before. It was a really great experience for me. I learned something new every single minute. The positivity of Canadians was wonderful. In the International

program you meet people from all over the world and see how they manage their cows and breed their cattle. It is so different and there was so much to learn. I would really like to thank the Canadians and CCYA and Helge and Candace for having us.

Keiro Peeter Kottisse, Estonia



I liked the judging the competitions very much. I learned very much about the breeding programs here. It is going to help my family business back in Estonia. The International program was very much fun for me and I would recommend that anyone that has the opportunity should participate.

Heather Gee-Taylor, New Zealand

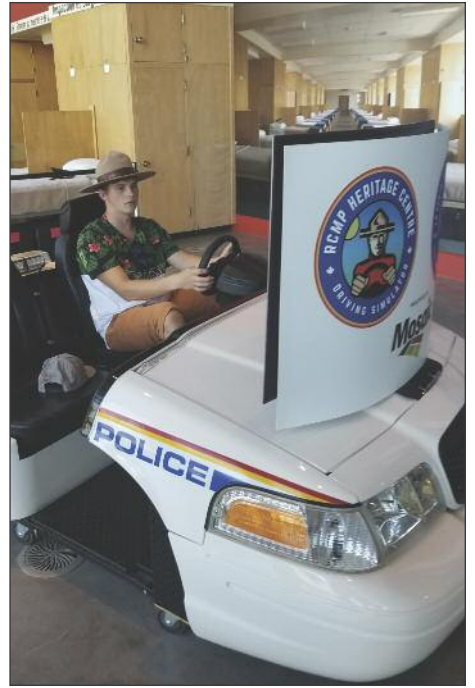
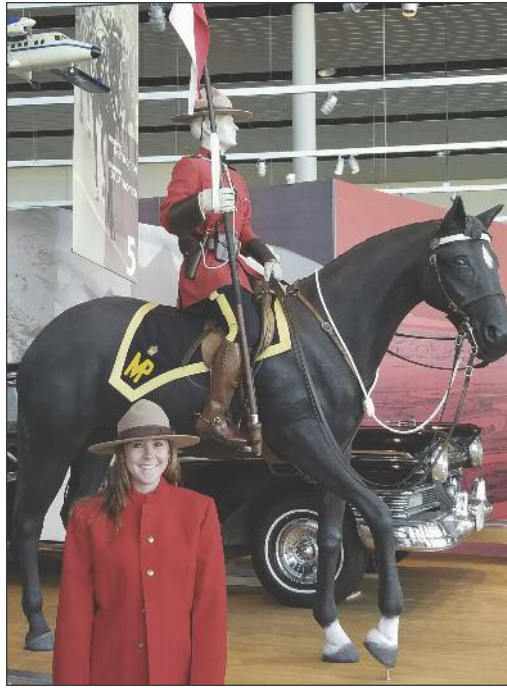


CCYA is a fantastic event that nothing in NZ even comes close to rivaling. I really appreciate how much passion your young people have for their cattle and the industry. New Zealand is really

lacking in passionate young beef breeders so it was refreshing to see such knowledge from all the youth at CCYA. I think the steer judging - carcass was also a fantastic educational part of CCYA. In NZ we have quite a bit to do with prime cattle, however, I had never seen one from in the flesh to a dressed carcass. CCYA was my first ever cow show and gave me some great aspirations. Since returning home I have started to break in a yearling bull calf of mine to show later in the year. I think this is a fantastic way to get my stud name out there and also meet other Charolais breeders. Canada has some very good genetics and I look forward to my crop of calves to Braxton and Honcho hitting the ground after seeing their offspring on the tour. Big thank you to you, Candace and Helge. I think the tour covered off a great mixture of touristy things (caves and temple spa were very cool) and CCYA and stud visits. Your breeders are very passionate and the cattle were all done extremely well. The feedlot was another highlight, I enjoyed seeing the variation from cows on pasture to feedlot intensive systems – makes me appreciate our year round grass system we have here!

Below: Douglas Hill, Regina Right: Irish delegates standing by the Irish marble bases in the Saskatchewan Legislative building





Luggage tetris





Showmanship tutoring



Beck Farms



Canola was a new crop to most



Climbing Caste Butte



Elder Charolais



Rosso Charolais



Howe Family Farm



Horseshoe E Charolais



Palmer Charolais



Buffalo Plains Feedlot