

# WestGen Canadian Classic 39th Event

Keen Competitors + Generous Sponsors = a Winning Formoola!

























#### **Tars Cheema**

Cheerful fans and families looked on as the 2025 WestGen Canadian Classic Formoola 1 dairy youth program raced from August 19-23 in Rimbey, Alberta.

The Cooperators Agrim Centre was a bright, spacious and beautiful venue for this 39 year-running youth development program. The refreshed branding with a new logo and signage marked the recently announced name change to 'WestGen' Canadian Classic, in recognition of not only their long-standing financial support as Supreme Sponsor, but also the new 10 year agreement. The entire event felt a little elevated with polish and professionalism, a testament to the efforts of the WCC Interprovincial Committee and countless volunteers.

Chair of the AB WCC Committee, Casey Morey was grateful for WestGen's commitment to an unprecedented investment of \$500,000 over the next 10 years, ensuring long term sustainability for the multi-faceted youth program.

Over the course of four days, some 90 participants were put to the test in clipping, judging, dairy science quiz, showmanship, conformation and stall

displays. Interspersed throughout the week were various social activities to balance the competition with camaraderie. The endearing tradition of seniors mentoring juniors and everyone building friendships across all provinces continued as enthusiastically as ever.

Provincial stall displays were impressively creative and impeccably maintained!

In addition to being a Gold sponsor, Hoistein Canada creates and administers the Dairy Science Quiz for Juniors, Intermediates and Seniors. Shannon Cartwright (Extension Specialist) from head office and Toby Kleinsasser (Western Services Rep) were on hand to facilitate the quizzes and assist at ringside.

Every year, a special person is honoured with a dedication for their long association with and contributions to WCC. This year's show was dedicated to one of the original founding committee members - Don Chalack, Wendon Holsteins, Interprovincial Committee member Andrew Wildeboer delivered the heartfelt recognition during Saturday's Conformation show.

You can read more about this on page 58.

WestGen's Marketing Manager, Krista

Christiuk was excited to be the MC for the conformation show on the final day. "It was inspiring to see so many juniors engaged and competing, and we are excited to watch participation continue to grow as these young leaders advance through the program. Events like this embody the future of our industry, and WestGen is committed to supporting their success," she shared.

Later in the afternoon, as the conformation classes were near completion, Toby Kleinsasser announced the final member of Team Canada's roster destined to attend the upcoming European Young Breeders School in Battice, Belgium. Nicole Verhoef was chosen with her High Point designation from the 2024 event. Team Canada is sponsored by Semex and Holstein Canada, with exceptional dairy youth chosen from four regions. You can read a bit more about the competition on page 30.

As the event wrapped up, all four provincial teams returned to the ring for a final competition - the Formoola 1 race! With a brave helmet-wearing driver in the amusingly decorated wheelbarrows of each province, it was a crazy time as all participants raced their team 'cars' around

the ring, sometimes amid clouds of baby powder, all without injury.

The 2025 WCC event concluded with a grand evening banquet - a time of recognition, fun and confirming friendships.

We extend our congratulations to the WCC Interprovincial Committee and Committee Chair, Casey Morey, for an outstanding job executing this year's event," Krista expressed.

From clipping and judging to guizzing and calves, Team Alberta was a force, ending with being crowned the Premier Province! Congratulations!

When you assemble keen youth, dedicated leaders, enthusiastic volunteers and generous sponsors, you have a winning Formoola! And a big shout-out to Supreme Sponsor WestGen and all sponsors who step forward with crucial funding to ensure the continuation of this unique and rewarding youth development institution.

## 2026 Sponsorship is OPEN!

Be part of the 40th anniversary show in Brandon, MB, August 18th-22nd, 2026! manitobawcc@gmail.com Vicki Wiens, Chair

See more WCC Coverage on page 58.

# **WestGen Canadian Classic 2025 Results**

SHOWMANSHIP JUDGE: Claire Swale, ON

**CONFORMATION JUDGE:** Devin O'Hara, ON

**ASSOCIATE JUDGE:** Kenton Lindenbach, SK

**CLIPPING JUDGES:** Lars Iversen, AB and Jonas Haeni, AB

#### **Junior Clipping**

Sponsored by Chinook Farm Innovations 1. Keaton Wildeboer & Janaye Rietveld, AB

2. Georgia de Lange & Adair Hehli, AB 3. Deanna Kampman & Everleigh Boerchers, MB

#### Intermediate Clipping

Sponsored by Kickstart Nutrition 1. Levi Congdon, AB

2. Eleanor Slingerland, AB 3. Sabrina de Vos, BC

#### **Senior Clipping**

Sponsored by KY-Vision Blade and Clipper Repair 1. Ethan Nienhuis, SK

2. Hannah VanderLinde, AB

# 3. Ashlee McAvoy, BC

**Junior Dairy Science Quiz** Sponsored by Holstein Canada 1. Georgia de Lange, AB

2. Everleigh Boerchers, MB 3. Edwin Slingerland, AB

### **Intermediate Dairy Science Quiz**

Sponsored by Holstein Canada

1. McKenzie Gyorkos, BC

2. Sabrina de Vos, BC 3. Jens Verkuijlen, MB

#### Senior Dairy Science Quiz

Sponsored by Holstein Canada

1. Ashlee McAvoy, BC 2. Adyson Wildeboer, AB

3. Nicole Verhoef, AB

### **Junior Overall Judge**

Sponsored by Lakeland College 1. Keaton Wildeboer, AB

2. Georgia de Lange, AB

3. Eli Kampman, BC

#### Intermediate Overall Judge

Sponsored by Central Alberta Holstein Club 1. Wyatt Baas, AB

2. Silas de Lange, AB

3. Levi Congdon, AB

#### Senior Overall Judge - Jamie **Donohoe Memorial Award**

Sponsored by Donfield Farms

1. Adyson Wildeboer, AB

2. Nicole Verhoef, AB

3. Ethan Nienhuis, SK

## **High Point Participant**

Sponsored by Validity Genetic Testing 1. Georgia de Lange, AB

2. Ashlee McAvoy, BC

3. Adyson Wildeboer, AB

#### SHOWMANSHIP **Junior**

a Schurmann, BC

2. Everleigh Boerchers, MB 3. Georgia de Lange, AB

#### Intermediate

1. Corban Friesen, SK

2. Silas de Lange, AB 3. Eleanor Slingerland, AB

#### **Senior**

1. Natalie Boonstoppel, MB 2. Hannah VanderLinde, AB 3. Ashlee McAvoy, BC

#### **Grand Champion Showman**

Sponsored by Eagle Builders Natalie Boonstoppel, MB

#### **Reserve Grand Showman**

Sponsored by Rippleview Hoof Care Hannah VanderLinde, AB

**Honourable Mention Showman** 

Corban Friesen, SK

#### **CONFORMATION** Spring Heifer (7)

Sponsored by Kozak Holsteins 1. CRAILA CRUSH ON POPE LEO

Bethany Friesen, SK

2. RF MERCEDES REVIEW Hayden Anderson, SK 3. RF MERCEDES DAWN

Jaylan Vandenbrink, SK

Winter Heifer (30) Sponsored by Perfection Pumping Corp. 1. WENDON LEGEND DAINTY

Nicole Verhoef, AB

2. SUNTASIA REFUEL SAPPHIRE Addison Dunne, BC

3. MOSNANG SALUTE DOUBLE TAKE Adair Hehli, AB

#### Fall Heifer (22)

Sponsored by Select Sires Canada 1. LUCKY CHUBANNA SPARKLE

Graison Wildeboer, AB 2. HAMMING BULLSEYE SISSY McKenzie Gyorkos, BC 3. KENBERT LEMONADE

Faith Friesen, SK

#### Summer Yearling (19)

Sponsored by GEM Silage Products 1. BRAMVILLE BRIGHT KRISPIE Gabrielle Knouse, SK

2. GROUNDZERO BRIGHT KITE Natalie Boonstoppel, MB 3. CHUBANNA MASTER SANGRIA Wyatt Baas, AB

Spring Yearling (4)

Sponsored by Wendon Holsteins 1. RF SIDEKICK CHARLIE Bart Verkuijlen, MB

2. MAZYLAKE IMPACT ALEXA Grayson Congdon, AB 3. KENBERT MAJOR ATHENA Chloe Knorr, SK

#### Winter Yearling (5)

Sponsored by Westerner Dairy Showcase Committee 1. WHEATHEART MASTER 441 Jens Verkuijlen, MB

> 2. SWEETRIDGE LAMBDA BRIGET Ryan Donohoe, MB 3. MAYPOINT MAJOR MENTOS Andrew Mason, MB

**Grand Champion Calf** 

Sponsored by Alberta Holstein Association BRAMVILLE BRIGHT KRISPIE Gabrielle Knouse, SK

**Reserve Champion Calf** 

Sponsored by Blondin Sires WENDON LEGEND DAINTY Nicole Verhoef, AB

**Honorable Mention** 

**LUCKY CHUBANNA SPARKLE** Graison Wildeboer, AB

#### Group of 3

Sponsored by WestGen

1. Alberta

2. Saskatchewan 3. Manitoba

#### Logan Chalack Heart & Hustle **Memorial Award**

Adyson Wildeboer, AB

#### **European Young Breeders** 2026 Trip Winner

Awarded to High Point Participant Senior Ashlee McAvoy, BC

**Premier Province** 

Sponsored by WestGen 1. Alberta (81.5 Points)

2. Saskatchewan (66.5 Points)

3. British Columbia (43 Points)

#### **Herdsman Award**

Sponsored by Jefo Nutrition Inc.

1. Manitoba (1177 Points)

2. Alberta (1170 Points) 3. Saskatchewan (1163 Points)

Thank You to our Generous Spor

Thank you Rimbey Alberta for hosting the 39th WCC event this year! We extend a sincere thank you to supporters across the West for making this event possible.



SUPREME SPONSOR





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**Jamie Donohoe** 

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# WestGen Canadian Classic Bringing Great People and Good Times Together

# The enduring power of WCC continues strong as it approaches its 40th year in 2026!

From the enthusiasm and determination of the founding committee, a truly world-class youth dairy program has evolved to produce skilled, knowledgeable, confident leaders - in the dairy industry and in communities throughout the west.

The secret is simple – invest in our youth – make it fun – make it memorable – make their development matter! Mark your calendars for August 18-22, 2026 in Brandon, Manitoba!



Thanks to the Pit Crew boys for keeping the ring clean so diligently, without disturbing the participants. Marcus Slingerland (L) and Gage Congdon (R).



Jenna Jongenotter demonstrates her dedication to snapping amazing photographs. Thank you Jenna, for your servant heart at WCC and so many other dairy events!



Alberta eats dust (baby powder) as Team Toba takes an early lead!



**Delightful to see Carol Wright** - one of the original founding committee members and daughter Lexi - who showed the Grand Champion calf at the very first WCC in 1985.



Sandy and Lillian Stewart prove there's no better way to enjoy retirement than attending WCC to watch granddaughter Ashlee.



Kevin Naughton (WestGen) stands with Ashlee McAvoy who was recognized as the **Senior High Point Participant** at this year's WCC. This grand achievement results in Ashlee joining Team Canada at the 2026 European Young **Breeders School competition** in Battice, Belgium! Good luck Ashlee!





Closing ceremonies on Saturday included the highly anticipated Formoola 1 race around the ring.

The WestGen Canadian Classic has endured four decades in no small part because past participants are so deeply impacted by the experience, they return to support and lead it for another generation. But without the significant financial support of businesses across the west, it could not have thrived. Now with WestGen's epic investment of \$500,000 over the next 10 years, another decade of WCC youth have certainty, allowing them to thrive, growing into industry and community leaders.

Thank you to all sponsors for your meaningful contributions that allow this uniquely enriching program to grow our dairy youth into dairy leaders.

# WestGen Canadian Classic Dedication

Growing up on the family dairy farm at Cochrane, Alberta, a passion for breeding and showing cattle started early for Don Chalack. In 1976, Wendon Holsteins began at Innisfail, Alberta, when Don & Wendy were married and purchased a farm as well as Don's uncle and aunt's "Bearspaw" herd.

Don and Wendy's children - Linsey, Jillian and Logan, were all involved in the farm at a young age and as they grew, so did the showing. Wendon has successfully participated in major shows for the past 49 years and are a 3X Master Breeder herd. As an Official Judge, Don has evaluated cattle across North America and has volunteered for the Westerner Dairy Showcase, now the largest show in Western Canada, for nearly five decades.

With all three children actively involved in the Mountainview 4-H Dairy Club, Don, along with a group of visionary breeders, recognized the need for a significant dairy youth show in the west. Don fondly remembers the organizing meeting held at Western Breeders in Balzac, Alberta, where the Western Canadian Classic was born.

Don served as an Alberta Committee Member for many years, watching his three children and countless others thrive in the program. During that time, he also helped send several Alberta participants to the Hays Classic at the Royal Winter Fair, further igniting excitement in western dairy youth.

Unfortunately, the Chalack family lost Logan to cancer in 2016. Despite this loss, Don and Wendy are grateful to have Scott Hastie (Jillian's husband) and Egbert Korenberg working alongside them at Wendon. To honour Logan's memory as a passionate dairy breeder and veteran of the program, WCC created the Logan Chalack Heart & Hustle Memorial Award, recognizing personality, leadership, teamwork, and work ethic.

Don's continued support and dedication to the WCC program throughout its existence has been extremely valuable to Team Alberta, and the committee is proud to dedicate this year's show to Don, for his role in ensuring Western Canada's youth have an outlet to continue their growth, expand their knowledge, and thrive as the future of the dairy industry.



The 2025 WCC show was dedicated to Don Chalack - one of the original founding committee members. **Interprovincial Committee members Andrew Wildeboer and Casey Morey** (Chair) proudly presented the dedication before an appreciative audience.