



agriculture & rural development

Department:
Agriculture and Rural Development
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



The Braunvieh on show in the Gold Cup Parade in the main arena.

PHOTO: ESTELLE SINKINS

Future farmers and judging cattle

ESTELLE SINKINS

THE future of farming in South Africa will be on show when students from Cedara, Vryheid Landbouskool, Weston Agricultural College, the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Zakhe Agricultural College take part in the youth and future farmer competitions at the 2018 Royal Agricultural Show.

On Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27 the cattle arenas will also play host to the commercial classes with steers being judged "on the hoof", before leaving the showgrounds in Pietermaritzburg for the second phase of the competition, judging on the hook.

This year will include commercial weaner and heifer competitions, through which the Royal Agricultural Society hopes to expand the section by embracing commercial farmers and providing a platform from which they can gain valuable exposure in the industry. The breed competitions get under way on May 28 with judging of the Brahman and Angus.

On Tuesday, competitors will be showing their stock in the breed contests for Brahman, Simbra, Simmentaler, Pinzgauer, PinZzyl, Limousin, Dexters, Hereford and Sussex.

The cattle competitions come to an end on May 30 with judging of the Jersey and Holsteins, followed by the dairy inter-breed, beef inter-breed and the Gold Cup parade.

Alongside the showrings will be a display showcasing other cattle breeds, including the Wagyu, which are fed and cared for in such a way as to produce the "world's best beef".

In the sheep section, the premier event will be the Hampshire Down National Championships, which will take place from 8.30 am on Tuesday, May 29. Prior to this, competitors will be showing their fat lambs in the ring on May 26 before they leave the showgrounds for judging on the hook.

The breed competitions will get under way on May 28 with contests in the Dormer, Ile de France and Boer Goats sections. The following day will see breeders of Hampshire Down, Dorper and Suffolk competing for honours.

The sheep inter-breed takes place on Wednesday, May 30, with the RAS champions being revealed in the main arena as part of the Gold Cup parade. The Royal Show carcass auction, South Africa's premier red meat event, will take place in the Sheep Expo hall on Tuesday, May 29.

Other key events in the agricultural section will be an Indigenous Veldgoat sale on May 29, and the KZN leg of the Toyota SA National Young Auctioneer Competition. Visitors are also encouraged to pop in to the Sheep and Natural Fibre Expo to watch the regular shearing demonstrations and other activities centred around wool and wool-related products.

• Make sure you get a copy of *The Witness* on Friday to read our special agricultural supplement.

estelle.sinkins@witness.co.za