

# 'SA farming in good hands' - KZN agriculture MEC

**T**HE future of South African farming looks bright, says Themba Mthembu, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development in KwaZulu-Natal, who watched the judging of the RAS Challenge for halter-trained animals at the Royal Show on Saturday, May 27.

Addressing students from Cedara College of Agriculture, Mtubatuba Mini Farm, Owen Sithole College of Agriculture, the University of KwaZulu-Natal and Hoër Landbouskool Vryheid, he said it was important to encourage more young people to get into the agricultural industry in KZN.

"What I have seen in front of me today fits well with the focus that the department has on agricultural production," he said.

"Seeing the youth today entrusted with these animals makes me very excited."

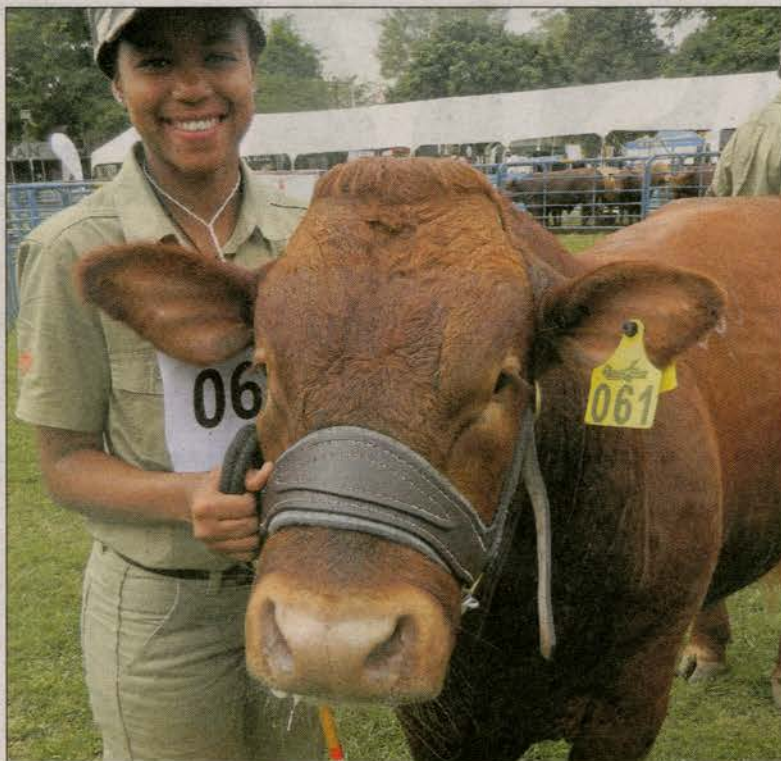
Judges Malcolm Moodie, chairman of the South African Fat Stock Association and Douglas Fletcher, of the SA Fat Stock Association, had a tough task choosing the best animals on show in a huge group class.

Ultimately, however, they gave first prize to first-time exhibitors, Mtubatuba Mini Farm, who had travelled from Zululand to show their group of Bonsmaras, sponsored by Ferrero Bonsmaras from Harrismith.

Zinhle Sithole accepted the JR Brewitt Floating Trophy and Royal Show medallion from the MEC on behalf of the team, which included Ngecebo Zungu, Mandisa Msweli and Gugu Thobede.

Second place went to Hoër Landbouskool Vryheid, who also showed Bonsmaras.

Mtubatuba Mini Farm also did well in the contest for halter-trained steers, winning the under 350kg, 350kg to 399kg and 400kg to 449kg categories.



PHOTOS: ESTELLE SINKINS

Nomvuyo Maseko, a pupil from Hoër Vryheid Landbouskool, with a Bonsmara, one of a group of four animals, being shown in the RAS Challenge for halter-trained animals.

The big winner in the unhalter-trained steers was Ferrero Bonsmaras.

#### FULL RESULTS:

Halter-trained steers

Under 350kg: Mtubatuba Mini Farm (first), Owen Sithole College of Agriculture (second) and Cedara College of Agriculture (third).

Between 350kg and 399kg: Mtubatuba Mini Farm (first), Owen Sithole College of Agriculture (second), Owen Sithole College of Agriculture (third).

Between 400kg and 450kg: Mtubatuba Mini Farm (first), Hoër Landbouskool Vryheid (second) and Mtubatuba Mini Farm (third).

450kg and over: Hoër Landbouskool Vryheid (first), Hoër Landbou-



Zinhle Sithole accepts the JR Brewitt Floating Trophy and Royal Show medallion, for showing the best group of four steers, from Themba Mthembu, MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development. With them is judge Malcolm Moodie, chairman of the SA Fat Stock Association.

skool Vryheid (second), University of KZN.

Unhalter-trained steers (third).

Under 350kg: Weston Agricultural College (first), Weston Agricultural College (second), Weston Agricultural College (third).

Between 350kg and 399kg: Ferrero Bonsmaras (first), Silvasands Farm (second), Mtubatuba Mini Farm

(third).

Between 400kg and 449kg: Ferrero Bonsmaras (first), Ferrero Bonsmaras (second), Ferrero Bonsmaras (third).

450kg and over: Ferrero Bonsmaras (first), Ferrero Bonsmaras (second), Ferrero Bonsmaras (third).