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Winners named in 2013 Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition

(Toronto, Ontario, November 5, 2013) -- Courtney Jordan of Beausejour, Manitoba and Madison Dymont of Burgessville, Ontario, were named this year's first-place winners in the 28th annual Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition.

The competition, which drew record participation, took place Saturday, November 2, 2013, at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Jordan and Dymont both chose what turned out to be overwhelmingly the most popular topic among all competitors: "Reading, Writing and Agriculture: Should Agriculture Be In The Curriculum?" In fact, all six senior finalists spoke on that same topic.

In the senior competition, the first runner-up was Garrett Keirstead of Norton, New Brunswick, followed by Courtney O'Neill of Erinsville, Ontario. The other senior finalists were Candice Van Laecke of Courtland, Ontario, Ashley Knapton of Almonte, Ontario and Kathryn Ringelberg of Troy, of Ontario.

In total, 34 competitors from five provinces took part in the senior competition.

In the junior competition, first runner-up was Noah Burnett of Cormack, Newfoundland, followed by Daniel Vander Hout of Waterdown, Ontario. The junior competition drew 12 competitors.

Finalists in both the junior and senior division receive cash prizes, with the senior champion receiving \$1,000 and the junior champion receiving \$500.

Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture is a national, bilingual competition that gives participants an opportunity to share their opinions, ideas and concerns about the Canadian agri-food industry in a five- to seven-minute prepared speech.

Since the first competition was held at the Royal Winter Fair in honour of the International Year of the Youth in 1985, it has gone on to become the premier public speaking event in Canada for young people interested in agriculture, with more than 900 participants in total over the years.

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