



Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture Announces 2014 Competition Winners and 2015 Topics

(Toronto, Ontario, November 24, 2015) – The 2014 Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture competition, which took place Saturday, November 8th at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, is pleased to announce its junior and senior category winners.

Noah Burnett from Cormack, Newfoundland, took first place in the Junior competition with his speech discussing why he will choose a career in agriculture. First runner-up was Jyllian Kaliciak from Bracken, Saskatchewan and second runner-up was Maxwell Archer from Mt. Pleasant, Ontario.

Ashley Knapton from Almonte, Ontario, placed first in the Senior competition with her speech on why social media is an opportunity farmers cannot ignore. First runner-up was Rachel Lee from Langley, British Columbia and second runner-up was Andrea Soesbergen from Dundee, Quebec.

This year also marked the 30th anniversary of CYSA's public speaking competition. David Imrie, who produced and hosted a weekly half-hour farm show on CTV Kitchener television for approximately 16 years, graciously emceed the anniversary luncheon.

CYSA's incoming President announced the 2015 competition topics to an all-ears crowd at the 30th anniversary luncheon:

- The biggest challenge facing Canadian agriculture today is...
- What role should government play in assisting young people entering farm businesses?
- Here's how our changing climate is affecting Canadian agriculture.
- This Canadian has significantly influenced agriculture.
- The one thing modern Canadian farmers must have is...

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“Having the opportunity to listen to the phenomenal speakers in both the Junior and Senior categories was an excellent way to celebrate CYSA’s 30th year,” said Gerry Sullivan CYSA’s new president. “The caliber of speakers this competition attracts each year is remarkable. Because of their insight and talent we hope they continue to speak out about agricultural issues throughout their careers.”

Each year the renowned public speaking competition is held at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. The competition is open to youth ages 11 to 24 with a passion for agriculture whether raised on a farm, in the country or in the city.

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 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. For more information about CYSA visit www.cysa-joca.ca

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