



For Immediate Release

Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture Competition Announces 2018 Winners

November 6, 2018, Guelph, Ontario – The Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture (CYSA) Competition is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 competition which took place Saturday, November 3, at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

The Senior Champion was Emmett Sawyer, Acme, AB; First Runner-up: Shaughnessy Riordan, Pokeshaw, NB; Second Runner-up: Casey Riddle, Elmira, ON.

The Junior Champion was Nate Caughill, Melancthon, ON; First Runner-up: Carmen White, Claresholm, AB; Second Runner-up: Hunter Reid, Hafford, SK.

The 34th edition of CYSA welcomed 29 competitors, aged 11 to 24, from across Canada who offered their insights and solutions regarding the following topics:

- My view on diversity in Canadian agriculture.
- Canadian agriculture needs more people – and this is how we’re going to get them.
- What is sustainability and why does it matter to Canadian agriculture?
- The next big thing in Canadian agriculture is: _____.
- How can we educate urban populations about where our food comes from and the industry standards involved?
- Food Processing: Trends and Market Opportunities
- Local Opportunities for Micro Food Processing

“One only has to listen to our participants to absorb the enthusiasm and motivation these young people have for agriculture and its future. It is infectious!”, said Ted Young, CYSA Board Chair. “This is one of the main reasons that motivates the CYSA team to host this event year after year. It is so rewarding to see these young people share their passion and their stories. They made all of us feel so proud.”

“We were very pleased to welcome a sampling of participants from across Canada, especially a record-breaking three from my home province of Quebec,” said CYSA president April Stewart. “Each year, the CYSA board, judges, and audience members can’t wait to see what these young people bring to the stage – and they never fail to impress!”

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Each year the renowned public speaking competition is held at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (a Platinum sponsor of CYSA) 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 provides a platform for participants 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 980 participants over the years. For more information about CYSA visit www.cysa-joca.ca

Watch our social media channels (Twitter: @CYSAAgriculture, Facebook: facebook.com/CYSA.JOCA, Instagram: Instagram.com/cysa.joca, and YouTube: search cysajoca) in the coming weeks for event photos and presentation videos.

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