

CSI, Kansas City (Cow Scene Investigations!)

World famous CSI (Cow Scene Investigator) Cow Grissom was staring intently at his ant farm on a foggy Georgia morning when the call came. Sheriff Chris Stephen, from the nearly wild west Kansas City, Missouri, had a major Cow Scene erupting, right in his own back yard, and he needed answers! Cow Grissom has the reputation of bringing together the most professional investigative team available to find the facts, and Sheriff Chris needed the best! Would he take the case? Cow Grissom only had to think a moment to know the answer. Of course, he would take the case! How could he turn down an opportunity to travel to Kansas City and check this out!!!

But much work had to be done. He began making a list of experts, and contacting his team. He would need a mobile lab, so he contacted LPH and company, whose equipment was all contained in a big white trailer. He needed GB, JH, CC, and JC for his Junior Facts Experts, and SP, KMc, DH and HG as his Senior Facts Experts. He called on CB, Science Project Winner and Speech Extraordinaire, for his Expert Witness Testimony. TL and WS, Texting Professionals, came along for DNA (Data Now Available) analysis. His Lead Investigator was HG, Field (as in pastures) Investigators were AC and CH, and his Showstick Expert would be SP. In charge of Hoofprints were DH and SH. And of course, MP would handle Public Relations and Information. Finally, the team was in place, and ready to make their way to Missouri!

The trip to Kansas City was exciting, starting out early Friday morning with an explosion of straw, which was reported to have covered I-20, and several cars. The first mystery of the week, Cow Grissom wondered – what happened to the strap???



Then the Bermuda Triangle appeared near Atlanta, and neutralized the battery in Mead Machine, and knocked out THM's cell phone. That was a first! Even WS's phone charger was missing!!! The day was daunting, but the Team persevered, meeting up with each other, until they finally made it to the situation room, alias Roth Hereford Farm in Windsor Missouri, for the night, or at least very early morning. The cattle were bedded down, and the team members fed; sleep would bring

fresh eyes to the scene.

Saturday was blissful, as the well-rested team left the calves to play, and traveled on to the American Royal to check it out, and set up the barn. CSI's scattered everywhere, looking for clues. They found evidence of a big deal in the works.

Hoofprints led them to see participants from 40 different states, and Canada! And the cattle, what beautiful cattle!!! This was going to be good! With the barn in order, the calves were retrieved, and taken to tie-outs. CB studied his speech.



Sunday started in earnest, with cattle being checked in and steers were weighed. **Robin Mead** attended the Advisors Meeting, and got the scoop on Operations. Juniors were signed up for contests, and posters were turned in. **Cole Brogdon** presented his **Illustrated Speech** on “Using EPD’s for Bull Selection.” The Judges were impressed! **Deprise Henderson** sang her heart out in the **Hereford Idol**. Our **Georgia Voting Delegates, Hunter Grayson and Cole Brogdon**, attended the **Meet the Candidate Dinner**, and asked questions of the potential new NJHA Board members. So this is what the Board is about!

Monday was interview day for Scholarship applicant **Shelly Patton**. **The Junior Quiz Bowl Team of Gabe**

Brogdon, Casey Chastain, Jacob Chastain, and Jacob Henderson, and the Senior Quiz Bowl Team of Shelly Patton, Krissi McCurdy, Deprise Henderson and Hunter Grayson all took the written test. The Senior Team made the Buzzer Round, making them in the Top 8 teams in the Nation! Even though Monday was a busy day, the Georgia Team still found time to Party, as they celebrated **Gabe Brogdon’s 12th Birthday!!!** After lunch, the 3 on 3 Basketball teams headed to the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame for a



riveting Tournament and Tour. The **Junior Team was composed of Gabe Brogdon, Sam Henderson and Chris Hart. Intermediate Teams were Jacob Henderson, Hunter Grayson, and Cole Brogdon**, and of course the **Girls Intermediate Team of Tommie Lynne Mead, Krissi McCurdy, and Deprise Henderson**, who actually made



it to the Semi-Finals! Our **Georgia Hereford Queen, Mary Porter**, attended Queen Orientation, and prepared for her work this week. The day ended with the State Group Pictures being taken, and the **Opening Ceremonies**, with the Georgia Delegation being led in by their Hereford Queen, Mary Porter.



Tuesday was early. While Hereford Queen Mary Porter was being introduced to the National Organization of Poll-Ettes at the Poll-Ettes Breakfast, the rest of the CSI's were investigating the **Cattle Judging Contest. The Intermediate Team of Hunter Grayson, Whitney Sheppard, Tommie Lynne Mead, and Carla Weissend,** a CSI from Alabama, were unstoppable, and came away with **1st Place!** How cool is that, to be the best in the

Nation! **Cole Brogdon** delivered a quick thinking **Extemporaneous Speech**, and all the juniors learned a lot from the **Fitting Clinic and Demonstration.** The NJHA Membership Meeting was held, and new Board members were elected (Congrats to Rozzie Blinson, from North Carolina, who was elected to the Board from our Southeastern Region!). The long day ended with a blast, at the Junior (and Adult) Social at the Hilton Headquarters!!!



Finally, Wednesday, the juniors got to show cows. Steers were the first order of business, and first in Class 1 was little **McKayla Ridley**, who marched herself right into the ring, and took 2nd place with R5 Gold Medallion. **Andrew Chastain** came along in Class 8, and placed 5th with Planter! Next was Showmanship, which was grueling. Congratulations to **Christopher Hart and Gabe Brogdon**, who made the cut in Junior Showmanship. Gabe went on to the Semi-Finals!!! For the Intermediate Division,

Kudos to **Krissi McCurdy**, who also made it to the Semi-Finals! Tough Day!



Sometime during the week, DH found a cute little puppy she named Kansas, and it was so sweet, it brought RM to tears! **Shelly Patton** was awarded the **Golden Bull**, which comes complete with a scholarship. Superior!!!



Thursday started out with the Cow/Calf Pairs. **Sam Henderson** placed 6th in Class 12, and Class 14 was won by **Tommie Lynne Mead**, with THM 163M Vicky Belle 4106. **Jacob Henderson** was 9th in Class 19 Bred & Owned Bulls.

In the Bred & Owned Heifer Show, **Andrew Chastain** led off Class 28 in first place, with AK 0372 Legend Queen 242 S21.

Krissi McCurdy was 2nd, and **Sam Henderson** 9th in Class 30, and **Tommie Lynne Mead** was 5th in Class 31. Class 32 had **Krissi McCurdy** 3rd, and **McKayla Ridley** 7th, and **Jacob Henderson** was 9th in Class 33.



The Owned Heifer Show was Friday, and was led off by **Andrew Chastain**, who placed 3rd in Class 50, while **Jacob Chastain** was 6th in Class 51.

Krissi McCurdy was 3rd in Class 54, with **Cole Brogdon** 9th and **Sam Henderson** 10th. **Tommie Lynne Mead** was 2nd in Class 55, with **Whitney Sheppard** 8th, and **Deprise Henderson** 10th. In Class 56, **Sam Henderson** was 6th, and **Hunter Grayson** was 9th. **Tommie Lynne Mead** was 3rd in Class 57, with **Casey Chastain** 6th in



Class 58. **Krissi McCurdy** was 4th in Class 63, with **McKayla Ridley** 7th. Class 64 had **Jacob Henderson** 4th, and **Whitney Sheppard** 9th. **Gabe Brogdon** was 7th in Class 65. **Tommie Lynne Mead** was 7th, and **Hunter Grayson** was 9th in Class 67. Class 71 found **Christopher Hart** in 3rd. **Hunter Grayson** was 9th in Class 88, **Andrew Chastain** was 4th in Class 106, and **Gabe Brogdon** was 7th in Class 110.

Krissi McCurdy won Class 114, with SR Sable 8006 L1088 ET, while **Tommie Lynne Mead** was 3rd in Class 119.

At the Awards Night Banquet, it was announced that **Karen Roberts** had placed third in the Senior Poster Contest, and **Jacob Henderson** was named Georgia's Outstanding Junior Member, elected by the Georgia Junior Delegation.

Congratulations!!!



Class 120 was won by **Krissi McCurdy**, leading LPH Keynote's Hurrah L1064 ET, with **Deprise Henderson** coming in 3rd. The Show ended on Saturday, with **Jacob Henderson** in 8th place in Class 121.

And so it ended. The week was over, the Georgia Team packed up the barn, said their "Good-byes", and loaded up their cattle to make the long trip back home. Some team members had more souvenirs than others; some had a few they didn't want. RG was bringing home a sore toe, THM a new battery, and KB had a new fuel pump.

As so it was. At the end, Cow Grissom's team sat down at a table made of straw to review their findings. Youth and cow had come together from far and wide, and had a joint event, the 2008 Junior National Hereford Expo, the likes of which will not be duplicated. Not only were new friendships made, but old ones strengthened. Hundreds of heifers and young bulls had strutted their stuff, along with their human counterparts, and the look was amazing. And Cow Grissom was proud of his Georgia Team, who had discovered the missing clues, put the facts together, and cracked the case. The evidence was in the ribbons, the prizes, the pictures, and memories. Sheriff Chris Stephens couldn't stop talking about what a great job they had done. But now that his young team knew the truth, he realized this was not the last Junior National Hereford Expo he and his team would attend. They would want to go again, to see if the next one was as great as this one. They would begin to prepare for the 2009 Junior National Hereford Expo and travel to Tulsa, Oklahoma!!! And they would like to take you --- So study hard, young CSI's, and get ready to "Take Me Back to Tulsa"!!!



Cow Grissom's Team, alias Georgia's juniors attending the 2008 Junior National Hereford Expo in Kansas City, Missouri are, Front row - left to right: Casey Chastain, Jacob Chastain, McKayla Ridley, Jackson Henderson, Gabe Brogdon, Sam Henderson; Back row: Mary Porter, Jacob Henderson, Shelly Patton, Cole Brogdon, Deprise Henderson, Hunter Grayson, Whitney Sheppard, Tommie Lynne Mead, Krissi McCurdy, Skylar Ridley. Not pictured are Andrew Chastain and Christopher Hart.