

On the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> July a herd of enthusiastic young cattlemen and women aged between 6 and 20, along with a few parents and helpers, set up camp at the Pittsworth Showgrounds for the 2004 Queensland Murray Grey Youth Muster.

The Muster was aimed at teaching participants about the preparation and showing of stud beef cattle. For many of them, this was the first time they had experienced mucking out stalls, washing, grooming, judging and handling.

Lectures covered topics such as structure, animal husbandry and reproduction. Guest speaker, John Bertram from the Goondiwindi DPI spoke on the Bull Fertility and Herd Health while Dave Taylor and Pat Bohan covered the finer points of meat.

A stock show and handler's competition held on the Sunday gave participants a chance to put their newly acquired skills to test – and the results were very impressive indeed.

However, it was not a case of all work and no play. There were plenty of laughs to be had during the Barnyard Olympics. The fundraising Auction held on Saturday night also provided great entertainment as participants tried their hand at being auctioneers. And although the haltermaking generally ended in a tangled mess of rope, some people did actually manage to take home a fully functional halter.

Thanks must go to all those involved in helping the Muster run smoothly and also to Baroona Park, Darrowby, Kiah Park, Misty View, Broad Gully and Boomerang Park studs who loaned over 30 head of cattle to participants for the weekend.

Bigger and better things are hoped for next year's Muster in celebration of the 100 year anniversary of this great breed.