

94th Little International Livestock Show Media Kit

Spring 2020

94th Little International Fact Sheet

Description:

The Little International Livestock Show is the largest student-sponsored event on the NDSU campus involving over 300 students. The show features showmanship classes of beef, dairy, sheep, and swine as well as ham curing and public speaking. The Little International also honors an Agriculturist of the Year; this position commemorates an individual who has not only excelled but also contributed substantially to the agriculture industry.

Theme: Speaking our Truth

Date: February 14-15th, 2020

Colors: Green, Yellow, & White

For information, please contact:

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Steven "Skip" Anderson.....701-205-9764

Eric Berg.....701-799-6338

Royalty: Queen: Katie Skalicky.....507-676-5859

Princesses: Brooklyn Vollmer.....701-516-4523

Jayden Leiseth.....701-570-4119

Agriculturalist of the Year: Ray Erbele

Tickets:

Hall of Fame Banquet: \$20.00

Showmanship Events: Morning Show- Free of charge

Night Show- \$5.00

Hotel: Days Inn

Candle Wood Inn and Suites

Agriculturalist of the Year
Ray Erbele



Ray Erbele has been named the 94th Little International Agriculturalist of the Year. This honor is awarded by the North Dakota State University Saddle and Sirloin club to recognize deserving individuals of their work in North Dakota agriculture.

Mr. Erbele grew up on a farm and ranch in Logan County, North Dakota. He graduated from Streeter High School in 1963, and pursued his secondary degree at NDSU, where he graduated in 1967 with a degree in agricultural education. After graduating from college, he taught high school vocational agriculture in Ashley and Gackle for 10 years. He attributes most of his success to the unwavering support from his wife Carol, their two children, Tim and Tammy, and many other family and friends. He's been involved on the Logan County Water Board, along with serving as the chairman for a number of years. He served on Logan County Soil Conservation District Board for 23 years. Beyond that, he's been involved in North Dakota Stockmen's Association, North Dakota Beef Commission for six years, three of which he served as chairman, National Cattleman's Association, he served as a director of the Federation of State Beef Councils of NCBA, director of US Meat Export Federation on a national level, and he was recently appointed by US Department of Agriculture Secretary, Sonny Perdue to serve in one of two positions to represent North Dakota as a national director on the Cattlemen's Beef Board. While Ray has involved himself in production agriculture on a national level, he still remains true to

his roots. Beyond the beef world, Ray plays an active part in the church and community. Today, Ray is a part-owner of Napoleon Livestock where he's been a prominent figure for over 20 years. He continues to farm and ranch on a diversified crop and cattle operation with his son outside of Streeter, North Dakota. He's a devoted Christian and is always willing to share God's word. But the most distinguishing feature of Ray is his humbleness. He is truly passionate for agriculture and is an exceptional example of what an advocate for the agricultural industry looks like. He spends uncountable hours promoting agriculture, not for recognition, but because he cares about the industry.

Agriculturalist of the Year is awarded to individuals with the utmost integrity and dedication to North Dakota agriculture. These individuals have made an impact not only through their work in the industry, but also through their service to many organizations and associations that shape agriculture and represent producers throughout the state. Recipients of this award act as a role model for the students of the Saddle and Sirloin club to follow in their own endeavors. Ray Erbele will be recognized as the NDSU Saddle and Sirloin club's 94th Little International Agriculturalist of the Year at a banquet in his honor during the Little International February 14th, 2020.

Little "I" Royalty

A long-standing tradition of North Dakota State University's Saddle & Sirloin Club is to crown highly qualified royalty to be the faces and voices of the largest student run event on campus, the Little International. The queen and her two Princesses serve as the club's main public liaisons for the Little "I" stock show. This Position is an extreme honor and a very important part of the Little International.

Every year, the club selects 3 club members as Little "I" royalty to represent the club and promote the event. The queen and two princesses take part in several publicity events leading up to Little "I". The 94th Little International Queen is Katie Skalicky. She is the daughter of Troy and Anne Skalicky, of Owatonna, MN. She is a senior majoring in Crop and Weed Science with a minor in Agricultural Communications. Princess Brooklyn Vollmer is a junior majoring in pharmacy and started her first year of pharmacy school this fall. She is from Wing, ND and is the daughter of Troy and Sara Vollmer. Princess Jayden Leiseth is from Arnegard, and is the daughter of Troy and Karen Leiseth. She is a junior majoring in agricultural economics with a minor in agricultural communication.



Sitting in front: Queen Katie Skalicky

Standing in back from left to right: Princess Jayden Leiseth and Princess Brooklyn Vollmer

94th Little "I" Schedule of Events

February 5th, 2020

8:00 p.m. – Public Speaking Contest	Shepperd Arena
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February 14th, 2020

8:00 a.m. – 4-H and FFA Livestock Judging Contest	Shepperd Arena
8:00 a.m. – Hippology Contest	Horse Park
8:30 a.m. – FFA Agriculture Sales Contest	Memorial Union
9:00 a.m. – 4-H and FFA Crops Judging Contest	Bison Sports Arena
9:30 a.m. – FFA Small Animal Care Contest	Memorial Union
2:00 p.m. – Contest Awards	Shepperd Arena
5:00 p.m. – Hall of Fame Social	Avalon Events Center
6:00 p.m. – Hall of Fame Banquet/Meal	Avalon Events Center

February 15th, 2020

8:00 a.m. – Showmanship Preliminaries	Shepperd Arena
8:00 a.m. – Photo Competition Display	Shepperd Arena
9:00 a.m. – Ag Engineering Show	Ag Engineering Building
5:30 p.m. – Showmanship Finals	Shepperd Arena

NDSU Saddle and Sirloin Club and the Little International Background

The NDSU Saddle and Sirloin Club was organized on March 15, 1918, under the direction of J.H. Shepperd, through the efforts of the livestock team that represented NDSU at the international Judging contest in Chicago. Those involved believed there was a need for an organization that would spark a greater interest in animal husbandry at NDSU. The following year, due to war conditions, the club became inactive.

The Saddle and Sirloin Club was reorganized under new constitution in February of 1922. Every year since, the club has presented its Little International Shows. They are patterned after the International Livestock show that was held in Chicago. However, there is one major difference. Little "I" is a contest in showmanship. It is about how well the exhibitor presents their animal, not on quality of the particular animals.

Every year for the Little International, S&S chooses an outstanding individual that exemplifies what it means to be a productive and influential member of the agriculturally community. That person is the Agriculturist of the Year, and he or she is honored at the Hall of Fame Banquet held during the Little International. His or her portrait is put on display in the Hall of Fame Gallery in Shepperd Arena.

The Little International is primarily a livestock show, but there is so much more that goes into this production. There is a contest in each species including: Swine, Sheep, Dairy, and Beef Cattle. Little "I" also includes a speech competition that has to relate to both the Little International theme and agriculture, and there is also a ham curing competition. In the past, the club has also shown horses and had a lamb lead competition.

It takes the entire club to make this production a reality. There is a committee for every detail of the show. There are committees ranging from publicity to concessions. The work that is put into this event is unmatched by any other organization on campus.

Each year, Little "I" continues to thrive and inspire contestants as well as the attendees alike. The Little International is a production filled with pride and a sense of tradition that will continue for many years to come.