

Rusk County Wins at Make It With Wool Contest

“MIWW” is known throughout the nation as Make It With Wool Contest, and the event is dedicated to promoting the use and wearing of wool. The objectives of the event are to promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabrics and yarns, to encourage personal creativity in sewing, knitting, and crocheting with wool fabric and yarns, to recognize creative skills.

The contest is open to all ages, and the divisions include Pre-Teen-ages 12 and under; Junior-ages 13-16; Seniors-ages 17-25; Adult-ages 25 and older. Additionally there are the “Made for Others-any ages” category; “Wearable Accessory-any age”; and “Non-Wearable Accessory” category.

Contestants must first compete in their home state, and Junior, Senior, and Adult Winners at state advance to the National MIWW Contest.

Much preparation and attention to detail goes into this competition as contestants must select wool fabric in which to construct their garment. Only 100% wool or wool blend (minimum of 60% wool or speciality fiber) for each fashion fabric or yarn used, and the entire garment body (back, front, and sleeves) must be wool or wool blend fabrics. Once that fabric has been selected and purchased, the contestants must send fabric swatches to Montana State University for testing. Once the Montana Wool Testing Lab confirms that the selected fabric or yarns are at least 60% wool/wool fibers, then the participants can proceed in the construction of their garment.

This year two people represented our county in the MIWW Contest. Competing in the Pre-teen Age Division was Brandelyn Cochran who constructed a beautiful dress and Pat Rushton competing in the Adult Age Division having constructed a three-piece pant suit ensemble.

Brandelyn and Pat traveled to the Texas 4-H Center in Brownwood, Texas to compete. After spending the night November 20th at the Leadership Lodge along with many of the other contestants, the event took place on Saturday, November 21st.

During the competition each age division as a group were presented to a panel of judges. Next, the contestants individually met with the panel of judges for an interview. Contestants then changed clothes for lunch which allowed the “constructed wool garments” to be examined closely by the panel of judges regarding clothing construction. Following lunch was the style show and awards ceremony.

Rusk County competitors did very well. Brandelynn Cochran was awarded 1st place in the Pre-teen Age Division and was presented with a Serger Machine by the Hill Country Sheep and Goat Organization. Pat Rushton was awarded 2nd place in the Adult Division and was presented with a \$50 prize from the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association and Auxiliary. Congratulations to our Rusk County Winners!

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Caption:

Pat Rushton (L) - 2nd place Adult Winner and Brandelyn Cochran (R) - 1st place Preteen Winner are pictured in the wool garments they constructed and competed with at the Texas Make It With Wool Contest on November 21st, in Brownwood, Texas.