

Australian Exchange Program Information

The Australian Exchange Program is a program that connects American Milking Shorthorn Junior Society Members with our sister breed, the Australian Illawarra. This program sends one AMSJS member to Australia for approx 6 weeks. While on this trip the selected applicant will stay on several different family farms, and perform various duties.

What to Expect:

- Be prepared to work. This is not an all pleasure trip.
- Expect to travel often, and in many ways.
- Your hosting families will provide most necessities. (food, shelter, water, ect.)
- You will be caring for and handling animals. A knowledge in all areas of the dairy industry is a must.

What to Pack:

- Pack as light as possible. No more than 2-3 bags of luggage.
- Pack warm clothes, and at least one pair of dress clothes. It will be winter in Australia while on your visit.
- Essential toiletries. (toothbrush, toothpaste, ect.)
- Camera.
- Small souvenirs to give to hosting families.
- Approx. \$500 spending money.

Where you will go:

- Travel will mostly be in the southern, eastern, and northern parts of Australia.
- Your final itinerary will be set prior to departure.

Australia Exchange Program Rules

1. Each candidate must be in good standing of a state Junior Milking Shorthorn Breeder's Association, if there is one in their state; and be an active junior member of the American Milking Shorthorn Society for a minimum of 2 years. Active includes entering in national and/or local competitions, attending meetings, attending conventions, and being active in meetings and fundraisers.
2. A candidate must be single and between the ages of 18 and 21 when they apply. Thus being able to attend when they are 22.
3. Each candidate must enter on an official entry blank, signed by his or her parent or guardian.
4. Each candidate is responsible for his or her own expenses in connection with the contest.
5. Upon winning, the exchange student is expected to provide the following information during and after the trip:
 - a) Maintain a daily journal of activities while abroad
 - b) Submit an article for the Junior page of the Milking Shorthorn Journal upon your return.
 - c) Take pictures while abroad
 - d) Present a PowerPoint presentation during the following year's National Shorthorn Convention to the membership.
 - e) Prepare a photo album for the Milking Shorthorn booth at World Dairy Expo to be on display and visit with attendees about the trip if possible.
6. A committee of five or more selected by the Milking Shorthorn Junior Executive Committee will judge candidates' applications and conduct an interview to the top five applications. This committee will be the same committee that interviews the queen candidates.
 - a) These interviews will be conducted at the National Convention.
 - b) Applicant must be present to interview.
 - c) Candidates are judged on maturity, poise, personal appearance, general intelligence, speaking ability, knowledge and experience with Milking Shorthorns and general dairy industry knowledge. The winner will be announced at the banquet.
 - d) The trip will be approximately a month in length and will be during the summer of 2011. (The months are flexible depending on the student.)
7. AMSS and Junior AMSS will provide airline transportation and money to purchase a passport if needed. Once in Australia all meals, lodging and transportation will be taken care of from hosting families. The student is encouraged to take some spending money for purchase of souvenirs and other personal items if wanted.
8. A completed application (on next page) for the program must be submitted to the American Milking Shorthorn Society, 800 Pleasant Street, Beloit WI 53511 and postmarked by June 1st 2010.

Milking Shorthorn Australia Exchange Program Application Form

Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

Email _____

Parent or Guardian(s) _____

Address (if different) _____

Years in 4-H _____ Years in FFA _____ Project area _____

Name of School & or Current Employment _____

Year _____ Major _____

Name and Address of Local Paper(s) _____

Farm Name _____

In your own words, write as much as you feel necessary in response to the following questions (additional pages may be added)

1. Summarize your extra-curricular activities (school, church, community, etc.)

2. Outline your association and involvement with the Milking Shorthorn Junior Society and how you have been involved with your own herd.

3. Explain how you have benefited from your experiences with Milking Shorthorns.

4. Explain why you would like to travel as an exchange student to Australia and what do you feel you could learn from this experience.

5. What are your future plans?

6. Where do you feel the future of the dairy industry is headed?

Date _____ Signature of Applicant _____

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

RETURN TO: AMSS 800 PLEASANT ST. BELOIT, WI 53511