



Thursday 7 May 2009

IT'S RAINING DOGS AND CATS THIS YEAR
EkkA Announces New Competition Categories For 2009

The recent cool change in the air signals the imminent arrival of the Royal Queensland Show and some exciting new competition categories for city and country folk to enter. Applications are now open for the EkkA's 45 major competition categories, with hundreds of classes of competition under each major category.

"This is seriously exciting competition," said RNA Chief Executive Jonathan Tunny. "The ribbons have arrived and we're polishing the trophies ready for this year's winners in fine arts, cookery, quilting, prime beef, horses, eggs, fish and many more grand competitions," he said.

HERE'S A SNAPSHOT OF WHAT'S NEW FOR YOU TO ENTER IN 2009:

FABULOUS FELINES

For the first time in EkkA competition history felines will make their entrance at the Show. They won't be placed next to the dogs though, just the Goldfish! As well as championship classes, the cat competition has a Kitten and Companion Class, so regular cats can have their fun as well. Everyone is welcome to show their tabby, from Aunt Mary to Billy, as long as their cat is de-sexed. A Feline Breed Showcase throughout the Show will have cat lovers licking the milk from their chins. ***Applications to enter close Friday 19 June***

CANINE

New breed classes for BABY PUPPIES across all breeds will cement canine as the cutest competition and probably the most entertaining at the Show. There are 215 different breeds on show throughout the EkkA. This competition is bigger than Ben Hur - or should I say *Irish Wolfhound* which by the way is the biggest dog breed and has hair not fur. Also in 2009 a new breed WHITE SWISS SHEPHERD. ***Applications to enter close Friday 5 June 2009***

OLIVE OIL

Guaranteed you will not be buying European olive oil after this year's Show, because it is fast becoming known that Australian olive oil tastes far better. EkkA's Extra Virgin Olive Oil Show will award two major trophies in 2009 for the Best Extra Virgin Olive Oil of Show and the Best Queensland Extra Virgin Olive Oil of Show. ***Applications to enter close Friday 26 June***

PRIME BEEF

Paddock to Plate. A new combined competition, Class 37, highlights the comprehensive beef supply chain from the paddock to the plate. It's a first for any major Show in Australia and should entice all end product users and customer focused beef producers to accept the challenge! The competition has four phases. Phase 1: final weighing for best aggregate weight gain for a pen of 6 steers. Phase 2: carcass competition for best aggregate pen of 6 carcasses and a champion and reserve champion carcass. Phase 3: MSA eating quality where MSA grading models will predict the eating quality of forty muscles by six different methods. Phase 4: Beef taste off, a palate competition, where a portion of strip loin is prepared and cooked by DPI & F food scientists and judged. ***Applications to enter close Wednesday 10 June 2009***

over/02

RNA Showgrounds

600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills 4006
 Locked Bag 1010 Albion Queensland 4010
 T +617 3852 1831 F +617 3257 1428

www.rnashowgrounds.com.au www.ekka.com.au



Branded Beef – a new open class for any branded beef label will have MSA graded beef competing against organic, wagyu, grass fed and more.

Applications to enter close Wednesday 3 June 2009

POULTRY

Schools and students across Queensland with chickens in their care can enter the new Schools Poultry competition this year. ***Applications to enter close Friday 12 June 2009.***

DAIRY PRODUCE

Arguably the most mouth watering delicious competition category at the Show, Dairy Produce sets out to find the best tasting dairy products available today. This category incorporates butter; cheese; dairy desserts; ice cream and gelato; milk and cream; yogurts; and home made dairy produce ***New in 2009:*** New classes in Reduced or Low Fat Cheddar Cheese; Cottage Cheese; Champion Ice Cream and Gelato; White Milk; and a Buffalo, Goat and Sheep Milk class.

Applications to enter close Wednesday 13 May 2009

EDUCATION ON SHOW

There are plenty of changes to the Education on Show (EOS) competition in 2009, changes that will appeal to school students everywhere. EOS is a competition for schools (individual students or groups) to compete against other Queensland schools. In 2009 topics are linked to the sesquicentenary and offer regional schools in particular, the chance to champion their part of Queensland. In 2009, this competition allows schools to choose from a list of topics and a method of presentation offering teachers the chance to work to the strengths of their students. For the first time students can express their creativity and ideas through sculpture, diorama, three dimensional works, collage, written response, posters or charts, two dimensional visual artwork, performance video and music. ***Applications to enter close Friday 26 June 2009***

DAIRY CATTLE

The Ekka Dairy Cattle competition is by far the biggest Royal Show competition in Australia, attracting more than 350 head. It's also one of the most fun competitions at the Ekka. Ekka patrons can take part in the Gum Boot Throwing competition (an unofficial comp) and have a go at milking a cow. ***New in 2009:*** The ***Stan Paulger Memorial Dairy Youth Team Challenge*** aims to promote the participation of young people in all breeds. Teams consist of 4-6 working members and a Captain under the age of 21 years and are judged on clipping, judging and parading. ***Applications to enter close Monday 22 June 2009***

ALSO NEW IN 2009

- The Ekka 2009 Farriers and Blacksmiths Competition will also incorporate the 2009 Australian Farriers and Blacksmiths Association (AFBA) National Championships.
- New for Stud Beef: Belmont Red has been re-entered as a breed after an absence of some years
- New for Led Steer: Champion and Reserve Champion Junior Led Heifer
- Horses: the heavy Shire Horse re-entering after a lengthy absence; and a new novice championship for Hacks

For schedules and all the details of Ekka competition visit www.ekka.com.au or contact the RNA entries manager Andrew Tudor on 07 3253 3921.

Ekka 2009 runs from August 6 – 15 at the RNA Showgrounds, Brisbane.

Media Contact: Andrea Sackson, 0414 672 318 / Ann Rainbow: 0411 482 792

RNA Showgrounds

600 Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills 4006
 Locked Bag 1010 Albion Queensland 4010
 T +617 3852 1831 F +617 3257 1428

www.rnashowgrounds.com.au www.ekka.com.au