

Press Release

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Manitoba Simmental Association Awards Two Scholarships

Submitted by Laurelly Beswitherick, MSA

The Manitoba Simmental Association is pleased to be able to award the 2019 MSA Scholarships to Alice Rooke of Alexander, MB and Mary Jane (MJ) Robinson of Treherne, MB. Each scholarship recipient will be awarded \$1000.00 to go towards their post-secondary education.



Alice Rooke currently attends Vincent Massey High School in Brandon, MB. She is active in the Rivers Beef Club, as well as volunteering with the Alexander 4-H Beef Club. Alice contributes her time to the Agriculture in the Classroom platform throughout Manitoba, is a volunteer with the Heritage Days event put on by her high school, and is a strong believer in agriculture education and hopes to continue to be a part of this movement in schools across Canada.

Alice moved to Canada from the United Kingdom with her family in 2013. The Rooke Family ran a mixed commercial cow herd, with a large Simmental influence. Upon moving to Canada, Alice was determined to start her own herd, and purchased two full-blood heifers with her first 4-H money. She currently shows at summer fairs throughout the province and is working on building her Simmental herd, alongside her family's commercial herd. Alice is very involved in many decision regarding the cattle, including genetic and medical decision.

Upon graduation this spring, Alice will be attending the University of Manitoba in their Bachelor of Science—Agribusiness program. Upon graduation from the university program, she intends to continue in the cattle industry, with her purebred operation and her parent's commercial farm, as well as giving back to the community and country through her involvement in educating the public about the life of the farmer and the well-being of the animals and land through which the farmer is able to make his, and her, living.



Mary Jane Robinson graduated from Treherne Collegiate in 2017 and is currently enrolled in the Vet Medical Receptionist program at Olds College. MJ is a volunteer with the Treherne Ag Society, is a member of the Pembina Triangle Simmental Association, and is a volunteer fire-fighter with the Treherne Fire Department. While at Old, she has become a member of the Animal Health Club, which holds fundraisers for animal shelters as well as volunteering at the shelters.

Mary Jane has shown cattle for many years throughout Manitoba, and was very involved in her local 4-H Beef Club and Junior Breed Associations. MJ did show Limousin cattle to start with and is now fully involved with the Simmental breed, having a total of 15 registered animals. She has had great mentorship under her grandparents, who own and operate Twin Oak Livestock, as well as with her aunt and uncle at Twin Meadow Livestock and Wilcox Simmentals.

Upon graduation from the Vet Medical Receptionist program, MJ intends to return home to Treherne and help on the farm, where she will continue to grow her cattle herd as she works at the local vet clinic. Eventually, Mary Jane would like to take over the family farm as she continues her life with her livestock.

Congratulation to both girls!! The Manitoba Simmental Association is so pleased to be able to help them in their finances as they continue to pursue the work and life that they love. We are very excited to see what the future has in store for these young ladies, and we know that the future of agriculture, within the province of Manitoba and beyond, is in great hands with people like this taking the reins.

The MSA is pleased to be able to support the youth of our membership with up to three scholarships awarded annually. This money is raised through the generosity of our membership. If you would like to know more about our scholarship program, please do not hesitate to contact our Secretary/Treasurer, Laurelly Beswitherick at 204-637-2046 or b2@inetlink.ca