Farm Toy Display is Huge Success!

Eleven 4-Hers from Smyth and Washington Counties brought some of their toy collections to the Rich Valley Fair this past week. While the toys and 32-inch square “farms” were nice, what was really on display were the imagination and creativity of each young person participating.

Contest participants were asked to build a 32’ x 32” or smaller land parcel and stock the scene using 1/64th scale (Matchbox) sized tractors, trucks and implements. Additionally, the youth were asked to write a few sentences about what was going on in their farm scene and this is where the participants really shined.

Our stories ranged from simple farm scenes of baling hay and milking cows to an on-farm equipment auction and a farm that had sustained a great deal of damage from a tornado!

Once the displays were set, Rhonda Fuller, Smyth County 4-H leader, assigned numbers to the displays and added corresponding numbers to slotted cans. Tickets were sold by the Southwest VA 4-H Tractor Club for $1 and these tickets were used to cast a “vote” for the fan favorite of the ticket buyer.

Miss Olivia Bryant of Chilhowie won our “People’s Choice Award” and Emory Jones or Glade Spring was the runner-up. Entries were placed into divisions based on the 4-Her’s age; Division Winners included: Mattie Olinger, Division 1; Brantley Olinger, Division 2; Olivia Bryant, Division 3, and Emory Jones, Division 4.

Everyone was thrilled with the project and we will be doing it again next year at the Fair! In fact, there has already been discussion on expanding the contest’s run at the Fair so more people can see the handiwork of our young Club members.

So be thinking about what you might want to do next year. We look forward to hosting this event for years to come!