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SA's Young Rural Ambassador

A 19-year-old farmhand from Eudunda has been named South Australia's Young Rural Ambassador for 2015.

Kahlia Jenke is South Australia's 10th Young Rural Ambassador, awarded by the Agricultural Societies Council of South Australia.

Kahlia, who is also a part-time production manager for fertiliser manufacturer Agri-nutrition, said she was determined to encourage the next generation of rural leaders to become involved in their local agricultural show.

"I'm looking forward to travelling to the different shows across the state and being able to share and exchange ideas with my peers, which I can then take back to my local show. It was so nice to meet the other finalists who were all so lovely and did really well to represent their associations and I look forward to catching up with them at their shows," she said.

Hayley Lewis from the Strathalbyn Show was named runner-up. The other seven finalists for 2015 were Georgi Cornford (South East and Border Show Association), Jade Kirby (Northern Show Association), Samantha Shadwell (Eyre Peninsula Show Association), Emmeline Vivian (Central Show Association), Paige Osborn (Yorke Peninsula Show Association), Rebecca Agnew (South East and Border Show Association), and Cassie Walter (Murrylands Show Association).

Acting Chief Executive of Primary Industries and Regions SA (PIRSA), Don Frater, said Kahlia and the other finalists make a great contribution to their respective shows.

"Country shows continue to be important events for rural communities across South Australia, and they would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of volunteers who give their time to ensure these shows continue to thrive," he said.

Kahlia, who represents the Northern Show Association, is heavily involved in her local community and is a committee member of the Eudunda Show. She has been involved in the show since a young age, exhibiting cattle, arts and crafts, produce and photography.

Rural Ambassador Award Coordinator Peter Angus congratulated all the finalists on their achievements.



“The 2015 Young Rural Ambassador State Final marked the 10th year of the award and this year’s nine finalists were all a credit to themselves, their families, shows, and local communities. It’s always amazing to read and hear about the things the young people are involved in, their achievements and goals for the future,” said Mr Angus.

Regional South Australia contributes substantially to the state’s economy, generating more than \$20 billion (revenue from all industries) and producing more than half of overseas exports – and it does so with just 30 per cent of the population.

PIRSA is the main sponsor of the Rural Ambassador Awards.