

TULSA—Three local youth represented the Porter FFA chapter at the 2012 Tulsa Farm Show Livestock Handling Skills Competition Finals on Dec. 7. Sponsored by American Farmers and Ranchers (AFR), the annual competition showcases the skills of young 4-H and FFA members in practical, real-life cattle handling scenarios such as weighing for accurate dosage, vaccinating, and tagging calves in a hydraulic chute. Contestants are judged on skill, accuracy, and efficiency as they process the animals. K.C. Barnes, Hallie Barnes and Jarrod McKinney, all of Porter, were a part of the three-person team that placed first in the competition. All three team members received a cash scholarship award and a trophy buckle sponsored in part by AFR. The team also won a Priefert Squeeze Chute to be used by the entire Porter FFA Chapter. The annual contest begins in July with a written exam that measures students' knowledge about livestock handling practices. At the state level, the competition emphasizes the application of classroom study to actual agricultural production scenarios. In order to excel, students must take knowledge out of the classroom and apply it in a real world situation. "In an industry where cattle of all ages and backgrounds are sent through the chute, stress-free processing is a primary concern for cattlemen," said AFR President Terry Detrick. "For young people involved in the process, safety is paramount. The livestock handling competition is one of the most practical competitions we sponsor throughout the year." The livestock handling competition begins at Oklahoma State University's Big Three Field Days with the written exam. Ten teams of three students qualify for the state competition, with the top two teams from each FFA district advancing to the finals. Each year, AFR partners with Midwest Shows, Inc., and other sponsors to offer the livestock handling program. For more information on the Tulsa Farm Show Livestock Handling Skills Competition or other AFR-sponsored youth events, contact AFR Youth & Education Coordinator Lin Fariss at 405-218-5561 or lfariss@afrmic.com. American Farmers & Ranchers was established in 1905, and is headquartered in Oklahoma City. AFR is actively supportive of Oklahoma's agricultural industry and rural population, and provides educational, legislative, and cooperative programs across the state. AFR also

provides insurance products statewide, and is recognized as a leading domestic insurance carrier in the state of Oklahoma.