



THE SPIGOT

from the NORTH DAKOTA RURAL WATER SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION

NDRWSA Sponsors State Science and Engineering Fair Award

By Lisa Schatz

Middle school and high school students from across the state showed off their projects at the North Dakota State Science and Engineering Fair hosted by the University of North Dakota in March. This year's competition marks the 62nd annual event with approximately 200 students participating. Senior high school winners (ninth through 12th graders) become eligible to participate in the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), which was held in Pittsburgh, Penn., in May.

North Dakota Rural Water Systems Association (NDRWSA) is one of the many organizations that help sponsor regional and state science fair awards. Since 1995, NDRWSA has presented awards to students for projects that address water and wastewater issues. These projects explore many facets of water science, such as improving the quality of drinking water or protecting water resources. Mike Ritteman and Rod Stroh of NDRWSA helped judge this year's student projects. "I am always amazed at the originality of projects and the effort put forth by students to uncover new knowledge about the universe we live in," says Stroh.

The recipient of this year's NDRWSA' State Fair award went to Kelsey Gaukler of Hankinson High School.

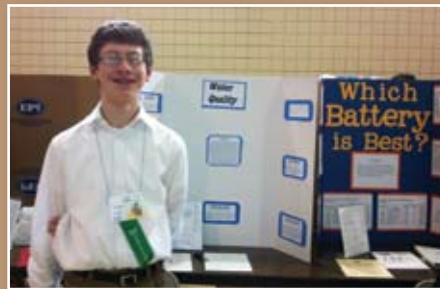


Kelsey's project analyzed the quality of drinking water from five different well water locations in Richland and Sargent counties, looking at mineral and bacte-

Kelsey Gaukler
Southeast Region
Hankinson High School
"The Chemical and Microbial Analysis of Well Water"

rial content, and the efficiency of two water purification devices. Kelsey received \$100 and a plaque of recognition from NDRWSA. Kelsey qualified to exhibit her project in Pittsburgh. Four Regional Fair winners were awarded \$50 and a plaque of recognition.

"NDRWSA is proud to be a part of this successful annual science fair event," says Eric Volk, executive director of NDRWSA. "I want to congratulate this year's winners and wish these young leaders success in their future endeavors."



Soren Loyland
Northeast Region
Schroeder High School, Grand Forks
"Water Quality"

Shantel Lang
Southwest Central Region
Strasburg High School
"Do Water Filters Work?"



Gage Metzen
Southeast Region
Hankinson High School
"Impact of Field Drainage Tile on River Water Quality"



Seth Kjellberg
Southeast Central Region
Montpelier High School
"Can the Sun Decontaminate Water?"

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