UniSteers

The University of Western Sydney Schools Engagement Program provides primary and high school students with opportunities to not only improve their academic performance, but also to expand their horizons.

Held annually by the UWS School of Natural Sciences, the UniSteers competition brings together high schools from across Sydney to compete in a steer-raising challenge. Each school receives a Poll Hereford steer that students feed, handle and care for over approximately 100 days. The University organises sponsorship for a portion of the feed. The steers are then presented for competition at the Hawkesbury showground and the Central Coast Prime Beef Show, before being sold on the beef market.

Students compete as individuals and as members of their school team. Individuals compete in steer parading and steer judging, where they are assessed on their knowledge, and presentation skills.

The team is assessed on its herdsman skills. This is focused on the students’ knowledge and care of the animal both during its raising, and on the day of the competition. The steer itself is assessed in the categories of live weight gain, best groomed steer and carcase competitions.

The students very much enjoy the ‘steer challenge’ and in the process learn about animal care, nutrition and growth of the steer, team work and agricultural industries. The learning they have gained and the fun they have had is clear at the awards ceremony where each team outlines its experience and the winners are announced.

For more information please contact s.blunden@uws.edu.au or SchoolsEngagement@uws.edu.au