

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Preston Smith of Nunn, Colo., a former Imperial resident and Chase County High School graduate, is one of 21 contestants who'll be at the 2010 World Livestock Auctioneer Championship second qualifying round.

He'll be in Crawford, Neb., Oct. 9 at the Crawford Livestock Market for the event, where a champion, reserve champion and runner-up will be named.

Three will also qualify at other regional quarterfinal contests in Billings, Mont., Calhoun Ga., and Parsons, Kan.

Those 12 along with the next five highest scoring contestants at each contest will move on to the June championship finals.

Contestants must be at least 18 years old, and employed and sponsored by a livestock market. All the contests are actual sales with buyers on the seats.

Contestants are scored on vocal clarity and quality, bid-catching ability, conduct of the sale and personal expression.

Smith has competed in several previous auctioneering contests.