

## CWSF 2013 - Lethbridge, Alberta



### Shelby Brubacher

#### Soybeans and Starch: A Bird's Natural Hero

**Challenge:** Environment

**Category:** Junior

**Region:** South Fraser

**City:** DELTA, BC

**School:** Delta Secondary

**Abstract:** In my experiment I proved that lecithin with cornstarch when emulsified and dispersed into an oil spill can serve as a natural protectant for bird's feathers. The visual appearance of the emulsion is a good indicator at predicting the effectiveness of the mixture.

#### Biography

I attended the Canada Wide in PEI last year. This year I was interested in this project because I live near an estuary where lots of birds live and migrate to. Oil tankers transport oil down the Fraser River where potentially an oil spill could occur in the event of an accident and significantly impact the birds. For future investigations of this experiment I would test different types of bird feathers and the scaleability of the results. Some advice I would give to other students thinking about doing an experiment would be to choose an experiment that captures your interest and to always make sure your measurements are exact and check the uncertainty to make sure the results make sense.

Youth Science Canada  
PO Box 297  
Pickering ON L1V 2R4  
[www.youthscience.ca](http://www.youthscience.ca) / [info@youthscience.ca](mailto:info@youthscience.ca)  
416-341-0040