For Immediate Release

A Taste for the Mini Market

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LOUISVILLE, KY – November 19, 2014 – The Miniature Hereford Show took place at the 41st North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) at 3 p.m. The breed is fairly new, as they were first introduced on the open market in 1991. In only the fifth year of appearance at the NAILE, the Miniature Hereford Show had 66 entries.

The main difference between Herefords and Miniature Herefords is their size. On average, Miniature Herefords are forty-two inches in height and weigh 1000 pounds (The Cattle Site). They are known for being a very docile breed. They’re popular for children who are just beginning to show cattle because they are small and easy to handle.

According to nineteen-year-old exhibitor Karly Biddle of Walcott, Iowa, some can even be pets, hobbies or a second source of income. Her family started out breeding Herefords until Karly decided three years ago that she wanted a Miniature Hereford for her 4-H project. This year, Karly reigns as the National Miniature Hereford Queen.

Miniature Herefords require less time and space due to their small stature. Tina Biddle, mother of Karly Biddle, said, “For urban people who want to move to the country, these are perfect for them.” She also mentioned that this breed is extremely feed-efficient having a 3:1 feed-to-product conversion ratio.

Karly explained that although Hereford and Miniature Herefords differ in size, they still produce equal amounts of meat. The mini breed has roughly the same rib-eye area, yet has less fat. This allows them to produce as much meat as a regular-sized Hereford. Overall, they play an active role in the beef market as well, as on hobby farms.

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