For Immediate Release

Friends Reunite at the North American International

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LOUISVILLE, KY – November 16, 2014 – The North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) is the largest exposition of sheep in the world, but close connections can still be made. Avery Spilde, 15, from Stoughton, Wisconsin and Brianna Brockmann, 18, from Garden Prairie, Illinois bonded during the Junior Breeding Sheep Show in the South Wing at the Kentucky Exposition Center. Both girls anticipated the Junior Supreme Champion Ewe Selection, which Brianna won last year at the North American International. That event was slated to follow the Junior Breeding Sheep Show.

Even though the girls are separated by a state border, they remain close. Brianna shows Shropshire, while Avery shows Tunis. They both have been coming to the NAILE since a young age and have been showing since they were four and five years old. Their bond has strengthened over the years.

“My favorite part about the expo is that I get to see friends that I normally don’t get to see on an everyday basis,” says Brianna. “It’s a great way to reunite with out-of-state friends.”

The North American International hosts over 140 shows and sales and attracts participants from all over the nation. It’s not uncommon for a Kentucky participant to compete against a participant from North Dakota. The exposition connects friends who have been showing livestock together since a young age. Annually, the NAILE has many returning competitors and the two week exposition can feel like a reunion for friends and family.

“My friendship with Brianna has definitely grown throughout the years and the NAILE is always a great time for us to reconnect,” says Avery. “Brianna and I grew up playing dolls with each other and now we’re showing livestock at the same shows.”

In addition to competing, both girls attend school and their education is enhanced by what they learn in showing. Brianna is a college freshman and Avery is a sophomore in high school. They both emphasize how showing livestock helps with school work since time management and discipline are necessary in both fields.

Despite their schedules, both girls always seem to make time for one another at the North American International each year.

Since Avery and Brianna are in the youth division, they participate in junior shows at the

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NAILE. The Junior Breeding Sheep Show showcases different breeds of sheep and each breed is judged on its unique traits. At the NAILE junior shows are a beloved tradition and grows in popularity each year.

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