For Immediate Release

Highland Cattle Show displays breed uniqueness

Katherine Loomis, Writer

LOUISVILLE, KY – November 18, 2014 – Pat White, Superintendent of the Highland Cattle Show at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), remained busy until the show started at 5:00 p.m. in Broadbent Arena. White was in charge of supplying ribbons, providing judges, coordinating stall arrangements and managing all entries. This year, the Highland Cattle Show registered 63 cattle and 57 headed to the arena. The Highlanders have a high impact at the NAILE, despite the low number in entries compared to other breeds. Their uniqueness makes the North American International show a special experience.

“The uniqueness of highland cattle is very dramatic,” says White. “Highland cattle are the kind of animals that will stop traffic because viewers can’t get enough of them.”

The Highland breed originates from the rugged highlands of Scotland and can be traced back to the sixth century. According to the American Highland Cattle Association, western cattlemen from the United States recognized the need to improve the hardiness of their herds and had a number of highlanders imported to the United States in the late 1890s for breeding.

“Highlanders are a hardy breed that are very gentle. They marble well and provide excellent beef,” says Evelyn Pruitt from Reed City, Michigan. “The breed is low maintenance and surpasses other breeds in longevity. Also, there is no more gorgeous cow than a highlander.”

Pruitt proudly defends the Highland breed. Currently, she is the President of the Midwest Highland Cattle Association. She enjoys bringing her cattle to livestock shows and working on her farm, Osceola Highlands. Pruitt showed at the NAILE in 2012, and this year she brought two of her 25 Highlanders to Louisville, Kentucky.

Pat White of Lea-White farms in Charlotte, Michigan is also a member of the Midwest Highland Cattle Association. She remained calm throughout show day at the NAILE, regardless of her busy superintendent schedule. White flew in Jenny Miller, 19, a sophomore majoring in Animal Sciences at Iowa State University, to help show while White managed exhibitors. Miller is also from Charlotte, Michigan.

“I trailered seven of my highlanders down here, just in case we had unexpected scratches in other entries. We need 50 head for this show to count as a ‘Super’ Point Show.’ It’s important for us and the American Highland Cattle Association to make this number,” says White.

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