North American International numbers indicate promising future

By Nicole Chance

Louisville, Kentucky- November 13, 2014- The North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) is the world’s largest purebred livestock exposition. Participation in the NAILE is a part of a rich tradition. This year, entries have increased by 2,239 exhibitors compared to 2013.

Quarter horse numbers have improved from 7,524 entries in 2013, to 9,015 entries. This is a staggering increase of 1,491 entries. Those 1,491 exhibitors have accounted for over half of the total amount of 2,239 entry increases at the NAILE this year. The upsurge in participants has been the result of the addition of three categories in the Quarter Horse Show. Classes include Rookie Professional, Rookie I, Rookie II, and the second year of the Two-Man Ranch Sorting.

Junior Beef reached 1,865 entries, an increase of 188 exhibitors from last year. Numbers in the Junior Beef Division did not start dramatically increasing until 2012. From 2008 to 2011 entries slowly rose, but plateaued close to 1,400 entries before increasing again. Open beef showed similarities increasing by 227 entries over 2013. The Open Beef Division has five more breeds than the Junior Beef Show. Steers this year have declined by 37 entries from 2013 to 169 exhibitors. The Steer Category has shown a regular pattern of decreasing-and-increasing from year-to-year since 2008. Champion and reserve steers are sold in the Sale of Champions.

Junior Dairy and Open Dairy numbers were both up. Junior Dairy rose 240 entries from 1,211 to 1,451 participants. Open Dairy increased from 2,170 entries in 2013 to 2,338. Both shows display promises for future increases because they have consistently been increasing since 2008.

The Junior Sheep Division rose by only 14 head from 2013. The Open Sheep Category dropped its number by 250 exhibitors. In 2013 entries were 2,700 and have since declined this year to 2,450. David Trotter, who is an announcer for Sheep Shows at the NAILE, believes the decline in numbers is due to the show schedule. A late harvest this year conflicted with the expo causing individuals not to participate this year.

Market lambs have risen by 167 entries this year, and wool has slightly increased by six entries to 135 from 2013. Although these two categories have risen, the Lead Division, which judges the sheep and clothing created from the sheep’s wool, have decreased by twenty-two participants.

Boer goats have dropped 29 animals. Market Wethers have increased in number by 30 head to reach 385 exhibitors this year. The Dairy Goat Show dropped slightly this year by 10 entries, to 461 participants. Swine remained even this year from 2013 with 1,176 entries.

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Caption: The number of quarter horses and beef cattle at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) have increased this year. Quarter horse numbers have improved from 7,524 entries in 2013, to 9,015 entries. Junior Beef reached 1,865 entries, an increase of 188 exhibitors from last year. Open Beef entries increased 227 entries over 2013 as well.