The 61st National Jersey Jug Futurity is Worth the Hype

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Louisville, KY- November 9, 2014 - The 61st National Jersey Jug Futurity at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) was in full swing November 9th at 1 p.m. Twenty three-year-old Jersey heifers participated in the show. The Jersey Jug is a special event where the cows must be nominated to participate, based upon specific qualities. Premiums and awards totaled $11,000.

Participation in the National Jersey Jug Futurity is considered an honor and a tradition. Animals go through a three-year-long process. Cows must be nominated every year after they are born and a required entry fee must be paid. Cattle were required to be born between the time periods of September 1, 2010 through August 31, 2011. The Jersey Jug winner was given the opportunity to compete for the Intermediate Champion Class of The All American Jersey Show.

Molly Michael, 18, of Baltimore, Ohio is the current Jersey Queen in the state of Ohio. She was at the NAILE this week because she participated in the National Jersey Queen Contest. Molly has shown Jersey cows since she was in fourth grade, and has participated in 4-H at her county and state fairs.

Molly has previous experience at the North American International Livestock Exposition. She never showed her own Jersey cows, but has shown for friends in the All American Jersey Open Show. What impressed her the most about the NAILE was the magnitude of how big it is compared to her county fair, and the vast amount of people who participate.

She showed enthusiasm in being part of the Jersey breed. That enthusiasm has stimulated her to pursue a degree in animal sciences at the Ohio State University of Newark. She explained Jerseys have a lot to offer to the dairy industry, because their milk is high in protein and fat. High protein and fat content helps produce dairy by-products such as cheese, ice cream, sour cream, etc.

The National Jersey Jug Futurity offers an opportunity for participants to show off their animal. It takes effort to raise a three-year-old heifer of high quality. During the futurity Freedom Hall lights were darkened and a single spotlight was shown on the animal that was announced. The hard work and dedication to participate in a tradition like this is an honor worth the hype.

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Caption: Exhibitors participating in the 61st National Jersey Jug Futurity.