For Immediate Release

Kim Ragland Receives Newell G. Hicks Vision Award
At 2014 North American International

By Claude L. Brock

Louisville, KY – November 14, 2014 - Kim Ragland of Danville, Kentucky, has received the 2014 Vision Award at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE). She is well-known for her work with education, livestock agriculture, 4-H and the North American International.

Kim was presented with the major leadership award at the mid-expo manager’s banquet in the Saddle & Sirloin Club on Thursday, November 13. Harold Workman, Vice Chairman of the NAILE’s Executive Committee and co-founder of the expo, presented the award to Kim Ragland.

In an interview following the presentation, Workman said Kim Ragland is a prime example of leadership in agriculture. “Her bright spirit, her talent, and her dedication to youth education and agriculture are an inspiration to many,” said Mr. Workman.

Kim Ragland is currently the University of Kentucky Extension Agent for 4-H in Boyle County, Kentucky. She is also the Junior Heifer Show Superintendent at the North American International Livestock Exposition, a post she has held for 10 years. She has worked with the exposition in many capacities for the past 20 years.

She is an innovator of youth programs, as evidenced by the Beef Cattle Intern Program she initiated at the North American International in 2002. Since that time dozens of young people have had the opportunity to work at the big expo, and to experience purebred livestock showing in an international arena.

In Boyle County, Kim is highly-respected and held with great affection by farm families throughout the region for her work with youth in area 4-H programs. She credits her work and enthusiasm to childhood influences that were passed to her by family through 4-H showmanship activity as a youngster.

Kim is a native of Magnolia, Kentucky, in Larue County. She is the daughter of James H. and Jean Ragland, who were Polled Hereford producers in Larue County for many years.

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When reflecting on her service to the North American International, Kim said she remembers showing livestock at the Kentucky Exposition Center as a child. “I fell in love with the fairgrounds, the smell of livestock, and the people who raise them,” she said.

Kim Ragland earned her B.S. Degree in Agricultural Communications and Agricultural Economics from the University of Kentucky at Lexington. She the earned her Ph.D. in Ruminant Nutrition from the University of Georgia.

Prior to becoming 4-H Extension Agent in Boyle County, Kim was an Associate Professor in Agricultural Communications at the University of Kentucky. She has a 12-year-old son, Landry, who is being raised in the family 4-H tradition.

**The Vision Award**

The Newell G. Hicks Vision Award originated for the purpose of recognizing individuals who exhibit high quality leadership and visionary skills on behalf of the North American International Livestock Exposition. Dr. Hicks, for whom the award is named, was such an individual who served as the North American International Official Veterinarian from the expo’s beginning in 1974, until his death in 1992.

The North American International Livestock Exposition is the largest purebred livestock exposition in the world. In 2014, the exposition featured 29,095 entries from across the United States, as well as visitors from 15 foreign countries. The annual economic impact of the exposition exceeds $11 million.

**Recipients**

**Newell G. Hicks Vision Award**

*Presented in Honor of Newell G. Hicks*  
*Official Veterinarian*  
*North American International Livestock Exposition*  
*1974 - 1992*

1992 – Garland Bastin  
1993 – Dean Hurlbut  
1994 – Roy D. Gibson  
1995 – Claude L. Brock  
1996 – Larry Legg  
1997 – Linda Martin  
1998 – Jack Ragsdale  
1999 – Doug Shepherd  
2000 – Jimmie Claycomb  
2001 – Cecil Goodlett  
2002 – Jean Callaghan  
2003 – Chuck Grove  
2004 – David Sparrow  
2005 – Bill Turnquist  
2006 – David Snider  
2007 – Dr. John Moran  
2008 – Dr. John Johns  
2009 – Dr. Ted Katsigianis  
2010 – Hayden Timmons  
2011 – Dr. Dennis Liptrap  
2012 – Dr. Jim Rudolph  
2013 – Linda K. Brock  
2014 – Dr. Kim Ragland