Youngsters Involved Inside and Outside of Swine

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Louisville, KY - November 8, 2014- Junior Swine Showmanship at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) kicked off the start of the Junior Market Swine Show at 4 p.m. November 8th. The showmanship portion of the Junior Market Swine is an opportunity for participants to exhibit their animal to the best of their ability.

Competing in junior showmanship gives young people the capability to gain experience in proper techniques of showing their pigs and can create invaluable relationships. Some techniques include eye contact, keeping the hog between the judge and the exhibitor, and giving the judge a side, back and front view as much as possible. Showmanship is not just in the ring, it is instilled outside of the ring as well. Proper nutrition, breeding, and overall animal care is a vital part of showing a pig.

Colbie Stremsterfer, 4, of Pleasant Plains, Illinois, was a swine exhibitor at the NAILE this year. She walked her pig up to get weighed with her father, Lee Stremsterfer, of Pleasant Plains, Illinois. She was ecstatic to walk Dottie, her spotted crossbred barrow, as she threw shavings on his back and guided him with her pipe. Even though Colbie is 4-years-old, this was not her first time in the ring. Her favorite activity when showing pigs is winning that blue ribbon. At home she is in the barn helping her dad walk and feed pigs.

Colbie is not the only junior showman in her family. She looks up to her older brother, Colton, who is 7-years-old from Pleasant Plains, Illinois. He showed three pigs at NAILE this year whose names were Billy, Silly and Crazy. Both Colbie and her brother competed in the Novice Division of Showmanship.

While at the North American International Livestock Exposition, Colbie’s favorite activity was riding the mechanical bull. Her brother Colton shared that, “Colbie can stay on the bull longer than I can!”

Showmanship is more than how well exhibitors do in the ring. It is also a tribute to what other do outside the ring to prepare. Youngsters learn to value working with their pigs, a skill that benefits them in the show ring, while providing them with opportunities and experiences that can last a lifetime.

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Caption: Colbie Stremsterfer of Pleasant Plains, Illinois walks her spotted crossbred barrow, Dottie, up to get weighed. She is the daughter of Lee and Stacy Stremsterfer.