There is something huggable about a llama. Perhaps their attraction is the expression that reminds you of an ever-smiling face, or the unassuming posture when they stand at attention to curiously watch nearby action. In any case, you can see Llamas and Alpacas for the last time today in the South Wing. They show today at 7:00 a.m. and will start leaving the grounds soon after the show. They have been in the show ring for three days, having started their activity on Friday. Harvey Pool is the new Llama / Alpaca Superintendent this year and he has big plans for future growth of shows at the North American International. Activity this year has been exceptional and officials of the exposition welcome Harvey and this team to the exposition. Be sure to visit the South Wing early today. Llamas and Alpacas present choice viewing at the expo.

Garland Bastin was the much-loved General Superintendent of the North American International for 27 years, beginning with the show’s founding until his death in 2000. A scholarship in Garland’s honor will again be presented to a young person this year. Applications were accepted until September 30. The winner is now chosen and will remain secret until the scholarship presentation is made today prior to the National Jersey Jug Futurity in Freedom Hall.
Swine Shows Underway

Swine Show Superintendent Dennis Liptrap is once again leading the way for top-notch swine shows in the South Wing. Dennis is a pioneer in Swine Show leadership at the North American International and he reports good numbers and high quality at the 2014 three-day run this year. Swine Showmanship and Purebred Classes start at 8:00 a.m. in the South Wing. Champion Classes will take place tomorrow, with the Champion and Reserve Champion ultimately going to the Sale of Champions on November 20. Swine events are for Junior exhibitors, all of whom have potential to be excellent leaders in future agricultural activities.

Quarter Horses have been in competition at the North American International since last Tuesday. Today marks the 5th consecutive day of their activity in Broadbent Arena. The Quarter Horse Show brings massive numbers of entries to the expo every year, and will likely push toward 8,000 entries this year. Spectators can see talented riders and their highly trained steeds in action all day today in Broadbent. Two-Man Ranch Sorting has returned this year. In addition, three other classes have been added, including Rookie Professional, Rookie I and Rookie II. Superintendent Jim Rudolph is at the helm again this year and confirms that nearly $75,000 will be divided among winners in the Quarter Horse Show. Horses start their competition today at 7:00 a.m. in Broadbent Arena.

Dairy Goats in the South

Dairy Goat Shows will conclude today in the South Wing. They started on Friday, with nearly 500 goats registered for competition this year. That number shows a slight increase over last year. Visitors to the South Wing will always find the goats ready to accept a pet. They are usually among the friendliest of all farm animals at the exposition. Superintendent Tess Caudill observes that quality is high this year. Final shows begin this morning in the South Wing at 8:00 a.m. The Dairy Goat Show is named in honor of William “Bill” Turnquist who served as Superintendent for many years, and who collaborated with Harold Workman and various NAILE committees to found dairy goat activity at the exposition.

Junior Dairy Numbers Increase

Junior Dairy Shows have been underway at the North American International since Friday and high-quality milk producers will conclude Junior Show activity today. They will be followed tomorrow with the beginning of Open Shows. Junior show activities at the North American International have long been considered vital parts of the exposition, since young people represent the future of the livestock industry. Junior Dairy Shows at the expo this year are at a record high, showing an increase of nearly 250 entries. Show officials Harold Workman and Corinne Fetter say the increase is a strong signal that parents continue to encourage youth participation in the livestock industry. Corinne Fetter said, “Our young people are the foundation for livestock production of all types, and the North American International provides a showcase in which youth can learn and achieve at a high level.”

Sparrow Will Be Honored

David Sparrow will be honored in Freedom Hall today prior to the National Jersey Jug Futurity. His wife, Linda, will be present at the Commemoration Ceremony, and everyone is invited to attend at approximately Noon today. David Sparrow was the North American International Dairy Show Superintendent for many years, starting at the founding of dairy events at the expo. David passed away in February of this year, and Dan Grigson succeeds David as Dairy Show Superintendent. Harold Workman, Vice Chairman of the NAILE Executive Committee, and Corinne Fetter, Director of the North American International will host the Commemoration, which is intended to recognize the outstanding service that David Sparrow rendered to the North American International during his career.