## Kids and Calves Compete For NAILE Top Honors

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Junior livestock exhibitors swelled with pride as their animals competed at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Junior Steer Show. Owners were awarded top prizes for their year of hard work and dedication.

The NAILE Junior Steer Show "holds a lot of tradition, featuring quality that is as good as anywhere in the United States," said Cecil Goodlett, Junior Steer Show committee member.

Goodlett said that entry numbers were up to approximately 150 animals this year. The NAILE event is conducted yearly to encourage individuals 21 years old and younger to get involved in the beef industry.

Cattle showing is a valuable

learning experience. "It stimulates a sense of responsibility, a competitive spirit, and an understanding that hard work does pay off," said Dr. John Edwards, NAILE Junior Steer Show judge and professor at Texas A & M University.

Goodlett added, "Cattle shows give them (junior exhibitors) the competitive edge they are going to have all their life. These youngsters who start out here have an advantage over other youngsters in the country, by their experiences they gain through livestock projects."

Heather Ulrich, show participant from Lowpoint, Ill., noted showing cattle was a family tradition for her. "My mom showed Polled Herefords when she was a little girl, and I have three older

brothers who all showed cattle," she said.

Judge Edwards said, "I grew up with the 4-H and FFA, showed my first steer when I was nine, and was on a state champion livestock judging team when I was in high school.

When evaluating steer classes, Edwards said he "was looking for animals that were muscular and correctly finished." He noted judges and beef producers must consider consumer demands for

cutability and palatability when choosing steers. Edwards listed balance, structural soundness, and eye appeal as secondary judging criteria.

The lucky steer that best meets these characteristics is named the 1992 North American International champion junior steer.

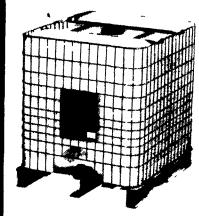
Brett Gibson, Clarks Hill, Ind., was the 1991 winner of the North American International Junior Steer Show and received \$15,300 for his champion. Gibson said he

"put most of the money in the bank" and mentioned the money was going to be a great help in paying for the rising cost of a college education.

B.J. Bailey of Gracemont, Okla., led his steer to the 1992 championship. Bailey's winning steer is an Angus/Simmental/ Chianina crossbred which weighed in at 1,268 pounds. Ryan Rash, Crockett, Texas, claimed this year's reserve champion banner with his steer.



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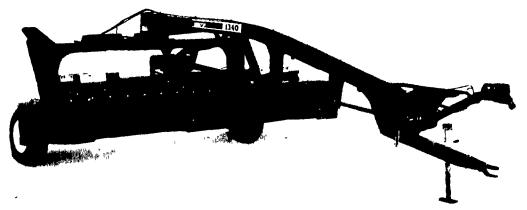
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