

World's Oldest Breed Of Cattle Competes At Big E

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass. — One of the world's oldest cattle breeds descended on the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, Mass., for the 1997 Eastern States Exposition Regional Highland Show, complete with a bagpiper to announce the animals' entrance to the show ring.

This unique breed, easily recognized by its long shaggy coat and wide, sweeping horns, attracted many breeders and an interested audience alike to the show, the first of its kind at The Big E.

The animals vary in color from silver/white, blond, and dun (gray) to red, brindle and black. Mature Highland bulls typically weigh 1,700-2,000 pounds and the average cow weighs 1,000-1,300 pounds at maturity. Despite their long horns, they are docile, even-tempered animals, according to Chris Hawkins, breed representative and exhibitor from Lancaster, N.H.

The Highland breed is believed to have originated in the Western Isles and Highlands of Scotland, where the environment is harsh and severe. They have evolved into an extremely hardy breed that can withstand extreme weather conditions. They have two coats of hair, a thick and woolly inner coat that acts as a blanket to retain heat, and an outer long and shaggy coat that sheds rain and protects the inner coat from becoming damp and cold.

Hawkins said he really promoted the show to the breeders, saying that "for the breed and the association, we needed as much public exposure as possible." He added that the exposure is good for not only the fair-going public, who may not be familiar with Highland cattle, but for other breeders to meet and talk with each other about their Highlands.

The show, heavily supported by the Northeast Highland Cattle Association, was well-attended. Twenty-two exhibitors paraded 65 animals before Judge Dr. Scott Barao of College Park, Md. This year's show was the 18th annual Northeast Regional Show.

This show also had the notoriety of being the first one where a

separate junior show was held for junior exhibitors. This January, the second will be held at the National Highland Show and Sale in Denver, Colo.

Hawkins, who has been raising Highlands for eight years, now has 14 animals in his herd. He and his wife, Sue, specialize in Highlands with first-generation Scottish bloodlines. He serves on the board of directors for the Northeast Highland Cattle Association, and is editor of the national breed journal.

The Highland breed is the oldest breed known to man. It was the first to appear in the earliest herd registry of 1884. Hawkins said beef from Highland cattle is very lean and flavorful, as the inner coat layer keeps the animal warm, preventing the need for a layer of fat. This makes the final product very desirable to consumers, who are looking for a low-fat alternative to the more traditional breeds of beef.

Many of the Highland exhibitors showed their cattle while wearing long white laboratory coats. This attire is considered traditional in the British Isles, where Highlands originated and are frequently shown. The coats lent an authentic air to the show, as did the bagpiper who announced the cattle with the sounds of Scotland.

Mike Kerr, a native of New York now living in the Boston area, was dressed in a green and navy plaid kilt and full Scottish attire, played his bagpipes throughout the show. A third-generation Scottish musician, this is the first time he has played at a cattle show in the 24 years he has played the pipes. Kerr said he enjoyed playing the music and felt the exhibitors and the audience thought it added to the experience.

One of the exhibitors at the show, the Faulkner family of Stoddard, N.H., has one of the longest histories with Highland cattle. Their Pitcher Mountain Farm first imported Highland cattle to the United States in the 1940s. The first Highland cattle were imported into this country by North Dakota residents who were

looking for a hardy, low-maintenance breed of cattle that could survive the harsh conditions.

The first Highland registry was established in Deadwood, S.D. There are now a number of regional associations, including the Northeast Association, as well as the Mid-Atlantic, Appalachian, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Mountain States, Northwest, and California groups. The Northeast group has more than 250 paid members representing 24 states and Canada, and approximately 4,000 head of Highland cattle.

Other results of the show are as follows:

Big E Highlands Show Results

- Late Junior Heifer Calf — 1. Horatio & Roberta Rolica
- Junior Heifer Calf — 1. Gordon Caldwell, 2. Drover Hill Farm, 3. Gordon Caldwell.
- Early Junior Heifer Calf — 1. Steene Hill Farm & James & Joyce Bannon, 2. Jimmy Bannon.
- Junior Heifer Calf Champion — Gordon Caldwell.
- Reserve Junior Heifer Calf Champion — Drover Hill Farm.
- Late Senior Heifer Calf — 1. Mick Jenkins, 2. Fred & Carol Ann Dill, 3. Hawkwood Farm.
- Senior Heifer Calf — 1. Harold & Joyce Leclair.
- Senior Heifer Champion - Mick Jenkins.
- Reserve Senior Heifer Champion - Harold & Joyce Leclair.
- Late Intermediate Yearling Heifer — 1. Drover Hill Farm, 2. Larry & Vicki Britian, 3. Gail & Stanley Maynard.
- Early Intermediate Yearling Heifer — 1. Steene Hill Farm & Renee Bannon, 2. Ridge Top Farm, 3. Trafalgar Square Farm & Theodore Robbins.
- Intermediate Yearling Heifer Champion - Steene Hill Farm & Renee Bannon.
- Reserve Intermediate Yearling Heifer Champion - Steene Hill Farm & Renee Bannon.
- Late Junior Yearling Heifer — 1. Donald MacLeod, 2. Donald MacLeod, 3. EZ Acres & Adrian Braun.
- Early Junior Yearling Heifer — 1. Ridge Top Farm, 2. Neil McIntosh & Burns, 3. Hawkwood Farm.
- Junior Yearling Heifer Champion - Donald MacLeod.
- Reserve Junior Yearling Heifer Champion — Ridge Top Farm.
- Late 2-Year-Old Heifer — 1. Ridge Top Farm, 2. Neil McIntosh & Burns, 3. Donald & Phyllis Kuhn.
- Early 2-Year-Old Heifer — 1. Trafalgar Square Farm & Theodore Robbins, 2. Sue & Chns Hawkins, 3. Forrest Kelly.
- 2-Year-Old Heifer Champion — Ridge Top Farm
- Reserve 2-Year-Old Heifer Champion — Trafalgar Square Farm & Theodore Robbins
- Grand Champion Female — Ridge Top Farm.
- Reserve Grand Champion Female — Donald MacLeod.
- 3- to 4-Year-Old Cow-Calf — 1. Ridge

- Top Farm, 2. Drover Hill Farm, 3. Horatio & Roberta Rolica.
- Champion Cow-Calf — Ridge Top Farm.
- Reserve Champion Cow-Calf — Drover Hill Farm.
- Junior Bull Calf — 1. Ridge Top Farm, 2. Forrest Kelly, 3. Frederick Grossmith
- Junior Bull Calf Champion — Ridge Top Farm.
- Reserve Junior Bull Calf Champion — Forrest Kelly.
- Intermediate Yearling Bull — 1. Sue & Chns Hawkins, 2. Neil McIntosh.
- Intermediate Yearling Bull Champion — Sue & Chns Hawkins.
- Reserve Intermediate Yearling Bull Champion — Neil McIntosh.
- Junior Yearling Bull — 1. Donald MacLeod, 2. Harold & Joyce Leclair, 3. Jim & Suzanne Pugh & Misty Mom Farm.
- Junior Yearling Bull Champion —

- Donald MacLeod.
- Reserve Junior Yearling Bull Champion — Harold & Joyce Leclair.
- 2-Year-Old Bull — 1. Varden Syndicate, 2. Harold & Joyce Leclair.
- 2-Year-Old Bull Champion — Varden Syndicate.
- Reserve 2-Year Old Bull Champion — Harold & Joyce Leclair.
- Grand Champion Bull — Varden Syndicate.
- Reserve Grand Champion Bull — Donald MacLeod.
- Get of Sire — 1. Ridge Top Farm, 2. Trafalgar Square Farm & Theodore Robbins, 3. Drover Hill Farm
- Breeder's Herd — 1. Ridge Top Farm, 2. Drover Hill Farm, 3. Trafalgar Square Farm & Theodore Robbins.
- Premier Exhibitor — Ridge Top Farm.
- Premier Breeder — Ridge Top Farm

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Miller gas welder, 250G trailblazer, 250G, 2-cyl., Onan engine, 4000W auxiliary generator, good running condition, approx. 800 hrs., \$1200. 717-626-5227

NH 555 delux skid loader, 1700 hrs., no manure, good condition, \$10,500. (717)776-7858.

Parking lot sweeper, ride on, Perkins diesel, high dump, bass brand, like new only 54 hours since new, for details. Evenings, (908)218-9492.

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Top soil screening machine w/self start diesel engine. \$14,000 814-237-8921.

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WANTED: Backhoe and weight kit for 553 NH skid steer. 814/942-2861 Jim.

Compost Exam Set Nov. 21

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) Secretary Lewis R. Riley has announced that the next Composting Facility Certified Operator Examination is scheduled Friday, Nov. 21 at MDA's headquarters building in Annapolis.

"The Composting Facility Operator Certification Program is designed to ensure that an operator of a commercial composting facility is knowledgeable about composting methods and systems and is familiar with compost regulations," said Riley.

"Composting is an expanding industry in Maryland for recycling a variety of organic wastes, such as yard debris, crab processing wastes, livestock and poultry manures, or municipal solid wastes. The MDA has been given the responsibility to make sure that commercial compost products are properly labeled and are produced by a composting facility with a certified operator," Riley said.

The certification exam is open to qualified individuals from the private or public sectors who have

experience or education in commercial composting of organic wastes. Interested persons should submit a completed application to MDA.

Applications will be accepted as long as they are postmarked by Nov. 13 or faxed to MDA by that date. An application for operator certification or additional information may be obtained by calling the State Chemist Section's Com-

posting Program at 410-841-2721 (fax: 410-841-2765). A list of recommended study materials will be mailed to all qualified applicants. There is no fee for the examination.

For more information, contact David A. Tibbetts, State Chemist Section, at MDA, 50 Harry S. Truman Parkway, Annapolis, MD 21401, (410) 841-2721.

Cattleman Produces Dam Of Distinction

LIVINGSTONE MANOR, N.Y. — Stone Ridge Farm, Livingston Manor was recently recognized by the American Hereford Association (AHA) for producing one cow named to the Dams of Distinction list.

"These are the most efficient cows in the Hereford breed," said Dr. John Hough, AHA's director of research and performance. They've met the strictest require-

ments for early calving, reproductive efficiency, calving intervals of no greater than one year, and weight ratios in the top end of the breeder's herd.

Some 3,646 cows were named to the prestigious list for this year. A complete listing of the cows and the 941 breeders who produced them is published in the November 1997 issue of Hereford World, the breed's official publication.



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