



For Immediate Release
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Educating the Public about Livestock at the Fair

The animal breeds display at the State Fair of Texas® has become quite a success! Since its creation in 2005, it has grown into a popular spot for attraction for fairgoers of all ages.

“The display’s goal is to educate guests on prominent species and breeds of livestock. The display is especially utilized on non-show days.” said Daryl Real, Vice President of Agriculture and Livestock.

When visitors come to the fair looking for animals, the breed display ensures there will always be examples of these species of livestock on hand.

The State Fair of Texas is home to 11 head of beef cattle, five hogs, four sheep, and four goats, as well as five head of dairy cattle displayed at a publicly viewed milking parlor for the duration of the 24 day fair. These animals are cared for by about 40 interns from Texas A&M University and Tarleton State University. Each animal is owned by a breeder in the area who has agreed to put their animal on the display.

Full-time Intern Breann Pritchard of Texas A&M University has been planning the breed display for the last several months. Some of her duties have included contracting breeders, coordinating their feed and supply needs and scheduling their arrival and departure. When contracting these animals, Pritchard said her biggest concern was obtaining animals to be the best representation of the breed.

“I think the biggest benefit to the breed display is clearing up popular misconceptions related to livestock,” Pritchard said.

Not only is the breed display educating visitors, but it is also beneficial to the interns, most of whom are agriculture majors. The interns are learning about the livestock as well as applying their knowledge when presenting the information to fair guests.

The breed display is funded by Farm Credit Bank of Texas, while Morgan Livestock Equipment and Purina Feed Mill both play key roles in donating materials to the display.

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