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Preserving History in the Non-Haltered Longhorn Steer Show

The Texas Longhorn cattle breed is most famously known around the world for its long, masculine horns and its beautiful hide. The non-haltered longhorn steer show at the State Fair of Texas® attracts the best of the best of this distinctive, attractive cattle breed.

Warren Mayberry, announcer at the State Fair of Texas and judge of the non-haltered longhorn show, said this show provides exhibitors a different way of showing their animals. The show was started as a unique way of preserving a piece of history, imitating how cattle were first selected at the stockyards in the late 1800's. The longhorn steers are let loose in a closed arena to walk freely among other longhorns, to run, fight or go as they please. The judge on horseback then selects the best longhorn steers.

"I think it's a part of our Texas heritage," Mayberry said. "Very few breeds exist where the actual state's name is attached to their breed- maybe the only one."

The entries are judged primarily on their horns where emphasis is given to horn size, length and shape. Hide and soundness are both taken into consideration along with confirmation and structure.

"These animals have always been prized for their horns," Mayberry said. "The older they are, the bigger their head and the longer the horns which are indications of a good trophy steer."

Since the first show was started just three years ago, entry numbers have increased demonstrating the desire and need for this type of show. Mayberry's

goal for the show is to continue creating interest and increasing the number of entries.

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