



For Immediate Release
Contact: Livestock Publicity
817-285.7101 anne@j3group.net

First Pee Wee Miniature Steer Show is a Success

There is a new entry in the beef barn this year and although it's been seen all over Texas, it's a first for the state fair.

The Pee Wee Miniature Steer Show is new to the 2009 State Fair of Texas®. It gives exhibitors ages 3 through 8 an opportunity to show cattle before they are eligible to show at the age of 9.

Steers in the show must be registered with a miniature breed association including Lowline, Hereford, and others. The steers cannot be over 47 inches tall.

Exhibitors 6-years-old and under must have an adult in the ring with them. Those older than 6 have the option for assistance.

There were 11 steers shown at the state fair, all of them being Miniature Herefords. Dr. Chris Skaggs of College Station, Texas judged the show, as well as the Prospect and Market Beef shows.

Kelton Poe of Needville, Texas, has shown Miniature Herefords for the past 4 years. This is his last year to show miniatures in the peewee division.

"I've shown at Houston, Austin, Denver, State Fair of Texas and the Texas Peewee Livestock Association shows," Poe said.

He showed the Reserve Champion Miniature Hereford Female at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as well as the Champion Female at the Star of Texas Livestock Show and Rodeo. Poe has two steers, one in each division, Xylon weighing 735 pounds and Douglas weighing 840 pounds.

Despite all of the fun he has had showing minis, Poe says he's excited to show a big steer next year. He was able to show a big steer at one show, and said it was a lot of fun winning with him.

There were two divisions, a lightweight and a heavy weight division. An overall champion and reserve was selected as well. Each division champion received banners while the grand champion received a trophy and a belt buckle.

_____ (Boy triplet)_____ was named Champion Lightweight Steer while Poe was Reserve Champion. Colton Barton was Champion Heavyweight Steer and Poe was Reserve Champion.

Barton of Jarrell, Texas, won Grand Champion Pee Wee Miniature Steer with his steer, Toby.

"This was my second year showing miniature Herefords," Barton said. "I showed at Waco, Belt Buckle Bonanza, Fall Classic and a few other shows.

"I'll do it again next year."

One of the youngest exhibitors was Aleyssa -----, who was only 3 years old, showing her steer Daryl. She had to show her sister's steer, since her sister was sick.

Even though this is the first time there has been a miniature steer show at the state fair, having miniature cattle began in the 1970's with Lowline and Herefords. They are often referred to as "little cows with a big future."

They are favored for their feed efficiency, good nature, and high quality beef characteristics. They have become a way for kids to get involved in showing at a younger age.

The fair expects to see the show continue to grow in the upcoming years.