



2007 WISCONSIN STATE FAIR CENTRALIZED BEEF IDENTIFICATION SITES

Wisconsin State Fair Park officials have announced the centralized locations and times for the 2007 Market steer identification check-ins. All juniors wishing to exhibit market steers during the 2007 Wisconsin State Fair, August 2 – August 12, are required to identify their steers at one of these centrally located sites. This identification process allows officials to accurately identify steers through use of DNA testing. WSF officials feel this system strengthens the security and integrity of the show, and its champions that sell in the Governor's Blue Ribbon Livestock Auction. Below is a partial listing of WSF Market Steer Check-in sites.

Beef Check-in Guidelines:

- All junior exhibitors interested in exhibiting steers at the Wisconsin State Fair **MUST** identify them during one of the WSF centralized identification sites.
- No intact males will be identified.
- On site steer identification will include:
Collection of DNA sample for accurate Identification
- Exhibitors will be charged \$5.00 per steer to cover the cost of DNA identification.
- Registration forms are available at the check in site and must be **completed** and **paid in full** before registration will be accepted at the check-in site.
- Check-in identification does not replace or override Wisconsin State Fair entry guidelines enforced by your local county extension office.
- Steers need to be pre-registered in exhibitor's name or by immediate family name only. Steers cannot be cross identified in non-immediate family members' names.

2007 Check-in Sites:

Wisconsin State Fair Park Milwaukee, WI

(Badger Kick-off Classic) **December 2, 2006**, 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Contact Person: Brian Bolan 414-266-7050

Grant Co. Fairgrounds Lancaster, WI

December 27, 2006, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Contact Person: Kevin Retallick 608-794-2256

Equity Auction Market Richland Center, WI February 3, 2007

Contact Person: Neal Anderson 608-585-3092 or 608 647-6151

*** Questions or concerns about weather cancellations should be made directly to contact persons at respective check-in sites, rescheduling of dates due to cancellations will be done by WSFP officials.

For further information exhibitors should contact Wisconsin State Fair or the contact persons listed above. 2007 WSF Rules & Regulations containing complete entry information will be available on-line www.wistatefair.com in May. All junior fair entries must be submitted through your local county extension offices.

WSF JUNIOR MARKET STEER BREED PERCENTAGE

Wisconsin State Fair has announced changes for the 2007 Junior Market Beef Breed class percentages. Steers showing in breed classes will need registration papers or respective breed certificates signifying the animal has met breed qualifications to show in the respective breed classes. Qualifications for breed classes are as follows:

Angus – Registration papers from the American Angus Association must show parentage to be 100% Registered Angus.

Hereford – Certificate from the American Hereford Association showing Hereford parentage required by the National association.

Shorthorn – Registration paper from the American Shorthorn Association indicating the animal is of 7/8 Shorthorn parentage or higher. Eligible steers in this class will have registration papers issued as red papers. All registered shorthorns under 7/8 will not be recognized as Shorthorns and will show in the crossbred class.

Maine-Anjou – Registration papers must be issued by the American Maine-Anjou Association and must show verification of breed required parentage. All registered Maine- Anjou or Maintainer cattle will show in the same breed division.

Simmental - Registration papers must be issued by the American Simmental Association and must show verification of breed required parentage. All registered Simmental or Simmental influenced cattle will show in the same breed division.

All Other Breeds – All other breeds not listed above will need the appropriate breed association papers recognizing breed parentage to their respective registration standards. If 10 of each breed are exhibited at the 2007 Fair there will be a specific class for that recognized breed regardless of percentage parentage in that respective breed. All other recognized breed association parentage verified cattle with less than 10 head exhibited will show in the Any Other Breed Class.

Dairy – All steers must meet registration requirements for the respective breed association. All non-registered or dairy breed x dairy breed crossbreeds will show in the commercial dairy steer class.

If you have any questions about these changes contact Wisconsin State Fair Beef Superintendent Brandon Boettcher at 715-597-5004 or Wisconsin State Fair Agriculture Director Brian Bolan at 414-266-7050.

BEEF AND DAIRY STEER IDENTIFICATION

We will be having a one-day, one-time State Fair and Grant County Fair steer weigh-in and identification. All exhibitors selling beef and dairy steers at the Grant County Fair and showing at the Wisconsin State Fair must have their steers weighed and identified on Wednesday, December 27 from 9:00 am - noon at the Grant County Fairgrounds. To cover the cost of DNA testing, exhibitors will be charged \$5.00 for each State Fair Steer identified. Members may identify up to five steers per exhibitor. Anyone interested in helping should contact the Extension Office as soon as possible.

Exhibitors will be asked to record their farm premise id on the county identification form. All premises that contain or host livestock were required by the State of Wisconsin to have a Premise ID by November 1, 2005. If you do not have a Premise ID you can contact the Extension Office or go to www.wiid.org and follow the instructions.

LIVESTOCK SKILLATHON

January 14, 2007

12:30-3:00 pm

- ▶ Open to all youth in livestock projects.
- ▶ Counts as a sale seminar.
- ▶ Test your knowledge on livestock breeds, feeds and equipment.
- ▶ All ages and skill levels are welcome.

GRANT COUNTY HAPPY HELPERS RABBIT CLUB NEWS

Our new officers for the 2006-07 year are:

Jessica Kieler - President

Dan Frank - Vice President

Bridgette Linneman - Secretary

Amelia Frank - Treasurer

Ashton Linneman - Historian

Cary & Emily Allen - Adult Chairpersons

Our annual rabbit show will be held March 25, 2007. At our December meeting we are planning to bring in various breeds of rabbits and what to look for in selecting these breeds.

Please plan to attend our December 3 meeting at 7:00 pm, to learn more about rabbits. All rabbit project members are encouraged to attend.

Submitted by: Bridgette Linneman

WAGS & WIGGLES DOG CLUB

The last meeting for the Wags & Wiggles Dog club was held on October 12 at 7:00pm at the Youth & Ag Building. The results of the State 4-H Dog show was discussed and it was reported to be a huge success. The County Fair show was discussed and it was decided that the club would suggest to the dog committee they ask for a change in the location of the show to be held somewhere else on the fairgrounds.

New officers were nominated and elected. Candace Wetter was elected for the position of President, David Campbell was elected Vice President, Danielle Porter was elected Secretary, Amanda Campbell was elected Treasurer and Jonatan Rodriguez was elected Historian.

It was decided that the members would bring club trip ideas to the next meeting. If anyone is interested in being on the Dog Committee, please come to 4-H Committee Night November 15th.

There will be no meeting in November or December. The next meeting will be January 11, 2007 at the Youth & Ag Building at 7:00 pm.

MEAT JUDGING PRACTICES

Dennis Patterson will be coaching the Grant County 4-H Meat Judging Team again this year. If you are interested in becoming a part of the team call Dennis at 994-2396 or the Extension Office. Judging practices are scheduled for Thursday, December 7 and 13, at 7:00 pm in the South Room at the Youth & Ag Center. More practices will be scheduled after the December 13th practice.

Paws and Reflect on the Abyssinian

The Abyssinian is another cat breed that is commanding lots of attention in the cat world. It has a wild-cat look with a very wide variety of intense colors. Owning a cat with heightened cat's curiosity adds to its allure.

Source: The first cats linked with Abyssinia, now called Ethiopia, came to England in the 1870's. Genetic evidence places origin of the Abyssinian around the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

Appearance: Wild mountain-like look, intensely colored, eager, feral look, long legs.

Body: Medium bodied cat, well-muscled athletic

Coat: Ticked coats, each hair has 4-6 color bands, multi-dimensional, translucent quality. Ruddy coat is burnt sienna with actual four bands of color. The black and orange bands makes the coat look like a very deep burnt sienna.

Ears: Slightly flared

Breed Standards: TICA (The International Cat Association) includes Somali, in the Abyssinian breed group, while CFA (Cat Fancy Association) has Somali as a separate breed. CFA have Abyssinian's warm glowing coats ticked in ruddy, red, blue, or fawn. TICA divides coloration in two divisions, tabby (ticked) and silver/smoke, which has an icy white undercoat beneath the ticking. TICA accept ruddy, blue, chocolate, lilac, cinnamon, and fawn -all of these ticked colors on silver.

Grooming: Medium work depending on the texture and length of the coat and some enjoy a warm bath.

Personality: Sweet, sporadic sessions of sheer affection, half wild spirit, acrobatic feats, will keep owners on their toes with their wanted to be in/on everything, lightening fast reactions which require super-vision as able to open doors on cabinets, climb inside the dryer or even the refrigerator, lap cat only when they want to be, keep breakables put away.

Health: Prone to gingivitis-gum disease - need to get teeth cleaned professionally every few years, kidney problems-feline renal amyloidosis, pyruvate kinase deficiency resulting in anemia, cardiomyopathy, and skin problems, and progressive retinal atrophy - degenerative eye disorder resulting in blindness.

The Abyssinian may be the cat for you if you enjoy their wild cat curiosity and have the patience to spend lots of time with them. They will train you. They are known to wake their owners up when in need of attention. Their curiosity, love to be in high places, and athletic abilities often are a challenge for their cat owners. Abyssinian cat owners are rewarded with a cat they love to own and unquestionably loves them.

Submitted by Donna Cyborski