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Largest Junior Wether Show Begins at North American International

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LOUISVILLE, KY- November 10, 2012 – The Nation’s largest Junior Wether show began November 10, at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE). The Junior Wether show is part of the expo’s sheep show, the largest in the world.

Market lamb prices drastically fell after prices reached a high last year of $2 per pound. The demand was high due to a shortage. Farmers sent ewes to market early to take advantage of the price increase, resulting in the crash. Lamb prices are currently about 90 cents per pound. Within the last 30 days prices have been working their way back up.

The drop in the market is not evident among showers. There are nearly 6000 entries for the Junior Wether show. Greg Deakin, from Cuba, IL says, “Showing and our numbers have stayed strong. It is our passion and interest.” The Deakin farm has Hampshires and Border Leicesters. They have around 100 ewes. Deakin has been in the sheep business for 50 years. He became interested while he was a 4-H member.

Like Deakin, several showers get started through youth organizations such as 4-H and FFA. Maxine Cosat from Martinsville, IN, is no different. Cosat has been showing in local shows and at NAILE for three years. Cosat is eight years old.

Cosat got interested in showing from her aunt and uncle who have a sheep farm. She has one Hampshire wether. “My favorite part is bracing and fitting the sheep,” says Cosat.

Her father, Jason Cosat, broke in and said, “I think your favorite part is something else, and it is in your back pocket.” Cosat reached back and pulled out her ribbon. A smile broke out across her face and her fathers. She might not have placed but that did not matter to either of them. Cosat was able to care for her wether, handle him in the ring, and have fun.

A lot can be learned from Cosat. You do not have to be from a farming family to get involved in the industry. It also does not matter if you win or lose but, it is about the experiences and lessons learned.