



3rd Place British Heifer – HLSR Progress Show 2014

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By:

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As winter approaches and the weather begins to get cooler and cooler, things are just heating up around my house. From preparing for shows to the carrying out of the normal routines at my house to studying and balancing my FFA and School activities, nothing has allowed me to catch a break and all signs point in the direction that I won't be catching a break for a long while.

At the end of October, I was given the opportunity to represent Texas with my fellow team members at the 115th American Livestock Judging Contest in Kansas City, Missouri. Once again, I had to leave the responsibility of feeding and maintaining my herd of show heifers to my mom and siblings. I know, I know it seems like a reoccurring theme here lately! However, I do not believe my mom did much complaining about having to take my place for a week when I came home as part of the American Royal Champion Livestock Judging Team. I can also guarantee you that Belle definitely missed me as she expressed when I returned home by meeting me at the gate with her head up, ears erect and a nod of the head to my backside.

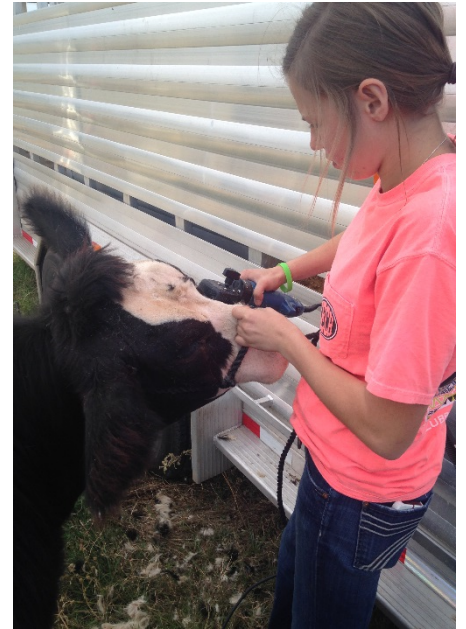
Upon my return back to Texas, I knew the Houston Calf Scramble Progress Show was quickly approaching and I had to brush up on my showmanship skills, work hair a little more efficiently, and pack the trailer before we left. However, that wasn't all that was on my to-do list before we loaded up and headed for Humble.



Although I have been raising cattle for three years now, my previous Ag Science

Teacher Mr. Fleming had always clipped my calves for

me and in turn, I had never clipped a calf by myself. With the day of the show quickly approaching, I was left with the only option, clip Belle at my house with my own two hands.



Luckily, I was not the only one to clip her as a close friend of mine was with me to provide a helping hand and quite a bit of assistance. I can tell you that my first clip job was definitely not the work of a pro, but every expert has to start somewhere! With Belle's clip job being finished, the trailer loaded, and my alarm going off at 4 AM on November 8th it was definitely time to get back in the show ring. After a morning full of very informative seminars and getting to meet up with some old friends, my class was entering the ring. The judge, Mr. Young from Katy, seemed to like Belle a lot as he began to pull heifer after heifer until we were in the top three. Soon enough, I was placed in third behind two very good British breed females who brought major competition to the class. I was extremely happy with the results of my class, but I knew my day wasn't over yet, showmanship was still to come. In no time at all I was walking back into the ring to compete for top showmanship honors. I was quickly pulled in my heat and made my way into the finals. However, Belle began to fall apart and lose composure very quickly as time began to drag on and on. This meant I was definitely not going to win champion showman, however I made it into the top 15 leading me to call it a very successful outing.

As the weather continues to stay cooler or sometimes even cold that only means one thing it's "hair growing season" which in turn leads to longer evening in the barn getting Belle's hair ready for the upcoming Major Stock Shows. This month was also a milestone for Belle because she turned a year old and also welcomed a new heifer to the pasture as my sister bought a registered Brangus heifer for our county fair next year. Belle has been instrumental in helping us gain the new heifers trust.

Towards the end of November I knew it was time to begin an a plan of action to get Belle bred when she turned 15 months old so that she would calve next November. Belle' breeder and I decided this route would be best so that she would have time to recuperate from delivery and look fresh for the 2016 Stock Show Season with a 3-4 month old calf at side.

As you can see there a lot more than just showing that goes into a Heifer Project; not only is it about showing but also about building an elite herd and learning about the cattle industry. When I began raising heifers I knew I would enjoy the project but never did I realize I would learn so many things, meet so many different influential people and one day want to become a nationally renowned cattle breeder. I've been fortunate enough to have excellent mentors to help me and answer all the many questions that come to mind. This opportunity would not have been possible without the past

Feed Program:

(twice daily)

Show Chow -14 lbs Vita Ferm – 0.5 lbs Depth Charge – 1 lb

Cottonseed Hulls – 1.25 lbs 3-4 blocks Coastal Hay Unlimited Pasture Grazing

scramble donors and now the sponsorship and belief you had in me.