

## The historic National Western Stock Show

The National Western Stock Show was established in 1906. It is the leading livestock, rodeo, and horse show in the nation. It is held for 16 days every January at the famous National Western Stock Show grounds in Denver. The National Western Stock Show has many nicknames like NWSS, Stock Show, and Denver.

More than 650,000 people attend the Stock Show every year! It is not just people who live in Denver or Colorado who attend. Farmers, ranchers, and rodeo professionals travel to Denver from 42 states and Canada to show their animals and compete for top prizes. There are also many people who live in other countries who visit Denver to attend the Stock Show. About 500 international guests from 30 different countries attend each year.

The show started as a livestock show in the historic “yards.” Back in the early 1900s, farmers and ranchers would travel by railroad to bring their animals to Denver. The 2018 show will mark the 112th anniversary of the National Western Stock Show. There will be over 16,000 head of livestock and horses that visit the grounds. This includes 25 different breeds of cattle and 6 other species, such as goats, lambs, alpaca, llama and poultry.

This year’s event will be held January 6-21, 2018. There are many educational activities for kids and families throughout the event. Visit [www.NationalWestern.com](http://www.NationalWestern.com) to learn more.



## What is the National Western Stock Show?

The National Western Stock Show has always been a big event in my life. Like any other holiday, we prepare for the National Western Stock Show. My family and I exhibit livestock, including, goats, lambs, cattle, and draft horses. But our livestock projects don’t just take up my January, we spend months in advance preparing them for the show.

This starts by finding the best of the best project, either at home on the ranch or from a breeder. Then I spend time every day feeding them, exercising them, training them, and all of it comes down to the show.

My favorite aspect of the NWSS is the friendships I make and the great lessons I learn. I have learned sportsmanship, gratefulness and also humility as a competitor.

But what is the show, some may say. It is a competitive livestock event where our animals are exhibited with mainly one of two things in mind, breeding the animal for future generations, or selling the animal to market so somebody can have a meal in the future.

I exhibit market goats and lambs at national, state, and county levels. Recently, my goat, Jeff,



Photos and story by Soren Freund, 14, a CK reporter from Elizabeth.

was named grand champion market goat at the Ak-Sar-Ben Livestock Show in Nebraska.

I live on my family’s Limousin cattle ranch in Elizabeth, Colo. Running Creek Ranch will bring a carload of Limousin bulls to exhibit at the National Western Stock Show. We use Belgian draft horses on the ranch daily to feed the cattle and we bring them to the National Western to compete in draft horse pulls, where they pull up to two tons!

My favorite aspect of the NWSS is the friendships I make and the great lessons I learn. I have learned sportsmanship, gratefulness and also humility as a competitor. The friends and relationships I make through showing livestock are also of great value to me, because of how I can cherish those bonds I make forever and how they can help me through more tough situations in the future.

The National Western Stock Show is a great experience for anybody looking to know more about agriculture and to expand their knowledge in general.



Running Creek Ranch Limousin bulls on display in the Yards at the National Western Stock Show.



# Showing sheep is similar to a sport

Hi, we are Ainsley and Tessa Delmore and we live in Wellington, Colo. Ainsley is 15 years old and is a sophomore attending Poudre High School in Fort Collins and Tessa is 12 years old and a 7th grader at Wellington Middle School. We are officers of the North Forty 4-H Club. This helps our leadership and public speaking skills. This is Ainsley's 9th year in 4-H and Tessa's 7th year.

We have raised sheep all our lives. We have ten crossbred ewes, six of which will lamb (give birth) in February. We are very excited for our ewes to lamb with hopes that they will produce great lambs for us to show. We also sell some of our lambs to other 4-H kids.

Throughout the year, we show at numerous shows and attend lamb camps to continue to learn and improve our care, handling and showing of sheep. We showed our lambs this past summer at both the Larimer County Fair and the Colorado State Fair. We are preparing to exhibit six of our lambs at the Arizona National Livestock Show and National Western Stock Show held in Denver in January.



Ainsley and Tessa Delmore participating in the Sheep Lead Contest at NWSS. Photo submitted by Ainsley and Tessa Delmore.

We also show market animals where we display the characteristics that

make our lambs a quality meat animal such as carcass cutability, structural correctness, lean to fat ratio and muscling. In showmanship, we get to demonstrate our ability to show an animal to its greatest potential by showing its assets and downplaying any flaws. When we show our breeding ewes, we are showing

them for their breeding qualities and how they will be able to reproduce and provide desirable lambs.

We love to show sheep because it is similar to a sport and we can compete. Additionally, we love the friends we make while showing. Mostly, we love to challenge ourselves to improve through

hard work in the barn with our family.

We are involved in many activities that promote the lamb and wool industry. We have served as Sheep Royalty at the Larimer County Fair and have created an educational display for the public showcasing sheep breeds, wool types, cuts of lamb and providing recipes. We enjoy serving a delicious leg of lamb BBQ at Colorado State University's "AG Day." We are passionate about promoting the value of agriculture in our society; showing sheep allows us to participate in agriculture and share our love of agriculture with others in the community.



Tessa Delmore with new born baby lambs. Photo submitted by Ainsley and Tessa Delmore.

At the National Western, we compete in the sheep lead contest, where we model outfits that are made out of wool while showing our sheep. This competition promotes the sheep and wool industry and how you can use wool as fabric, yarn and felt to create garments.



By Ainsley Delmore, 15, and Tessa Delmore, 12, CK reporters from Wellington

## National Western Stock Show Trivia

- When was the first National Western Stock Show held?
  - 1866
  - 1906
  - 1948
  - 2001
- What animals are called livestock?
  - Beef cattle
  - Sheep
  - Pigs
  - Goats
  - All of the above
- How many different breeds of beef cattle are shown at NWSS?
  - 3
  - 8
  - 15
  - 25
- Exhibitors from how many states show their animals at NWSS?
  - 10
  - 28
  - 42
  - 50
- How much does a pig weigh when it is shown at NWSS?
  - 85-140 pounds
  - 160-215 pounds
  - 235-290 pounds
  - 315-370 pounds
- What is the process called when a sheep gives birth?
  - Lamb
  - Kid
  - Foal
  - Calve
- How many days is the National Western Stock Show?
  - 7
  - 12
  - 16
  - 21
- Where is CSU's Ag Adventure located?
  - Stadium Arena
  - Coliseum
  - Hall of Education
  - Expo Hall
- How many acres of land will be used for the new National Western Center site when it is completed?
  - 10
  - 100
  - 175
  - 250



# Chasing a wild calf, to sleeping on a steer

I know it might sound weird but chasing calves in an arena with thousands of people rooting you on is tons of fun!

Catching the calf was the easy part. I waited and watched the calves scatter before I took off after the one I wanted. This was part of the rodeo entertainment during the National Western Stock Show.

I picked my calf up and met my sponsor in May. The biggest thing that I have learned is how to teach your animals to trust you. I did this by singing, talking and feeding him. I also communicate with my sponsor at least once a month.



Photo and story by Kaysa Kurtz, 15, a CK reporter from Rocky Ford.

My participation in Catch-A-Calf has taught me trust and communication with my animal and sponsor. We have also spent more time together as a family, which has resulted in a lot of laughs.

I named my steer HeshE. He weighed 792 pounds in the beginning and is a Hereford, which is a breed of beef cattle. I have spent hours washing, drying, working his hair, leading him and teaching him to show. I showed him at four shows this summer. I monitor his feed and his weight. HeshE now

weighs 1,298 pounds, and the goal weight is 1,350 pounds. He has eaten about 3,600 pounds of grain since May.

One of my proudest moments with HeshE was at a show in Ordway in July. I placed in showmanship and participated in Round Robin. Round Robin is where all of the top showmen in each species have to show each other's animal at the fair. HeshE had only been home a little over two months and was only used to me and my five-year-old brother. He was shown by 17 other kids. I was worried that he would be scared of them or would get tired of being shown and get grumpy. He did fantastic! My hard work over the summer paid off!!

HeshE remained calm. By the State Fair, HeshE was so tame that I could lay down and use him as a pillow. I would have never thought that my wild calf would turn into a calm, laid back steer.

My participation in Catch-A-Calf has taught me trust and communication with my animal and sponsor. We have also spent more time together as a family, which has resulted in a lot of laughs. If you are looking for a challenge and have the ability to take care of a steer, I would encourage you to participate in 4-H and the Catch-A-Calf program.

## Showing steers is hard work



Casey Midcap showing at the NWSS. Photo submitted by Casey Midcap.

My name is Casey Midcap and I am from Wray, Colo. It is a small town near Kansas and Nebraska. I have been showing pigs and steers for about four years.

Showing steers is hard work and you need a lot of things to get them ready. All year long, we get up at about 6:00 a.m., or earlier, to feed them, give them a bath, and put stuff in their hair like shampoo and conditioner. There are a lot of different products to get them ready for the show, like stuff to keep their hair shiny, to keep their skin from getting dry, and to make their hair stand up and look pretty.

I like going to the National Western

Stock Show because I can see kids who have never seen a steer and tell them all about my calves. It is kind of funny to watch people who live in the city walk through the barn with their nose plugged, because I think that my steers actually smell pretty good!

The day of the show is kind of crazy because you have to fit them. You put product on them that makes their skin not dry, and then you blow it in with a blow drier – kind of like what you use to dry your hair, but much bigger. Fitting also involves putting glue in their hair. It is not like Elmer's glue, but like hairspray glue that is in a type of spray paint can, and you spray on their legs. Their leg hair

will stand up and the steer looks big and muscular. Then you are ready to show.

Kids and adults might think that steers are scary, but they are not. We work with them every day so they are tame. If you go to the Stock Show, most of the animals are nice.

One thing I like about showing is meeting new people along the way. Another thing I like is you get to hang out with your family. It is something for me to do outside, besides sports. My favorite thing about the Stock Show is showing the judge my steer and hopefully getting ribbon.



By Casey Midcap, 11, a CK reporter from Wray



# The Journey to Denver

You may wonder why someone would want to show pigs at the National Western Stock Show? Showing pigs at Stock Show is fun and exciting, with lots of competition from all over the United States. This is also another opportunity for me to do what I love, show pigs.

The journey to Denver begins in late summer. Because of the popularity of the pig show at Denver, every exhibitor must apply for the drawing to show at the NWSS. If you are lucky enough to be selected to show at Denver, then you have to start the process of evaluating, selecting and purchasing your pigs. During this step you must look at many pigs that are about two months old and weigh about 60 pounds. We call these prospects. It is important to evaluate their conformation and skeletal structure. If a baby pig has poor structure it will not be able to walk comfortably when fully grown and finished.

During the first several weeks I spend time with my pigs, brushing their hair and getting acquainted. This is the first step in the training process. We feed our pigs two times every day. They eat things like soybeans, corn and oats. I also give them baths, clip their hair and put lotion on their skin to keep them looking nice. Skin condition is a very important part of presenting your animal at a show. I try to walk my pigs every day, for about ten to fifteen minutes to train them how to show and to also make sure they are in good enough shape for the show. Colorado weather and short days make this difficult and one of the biggest challenges of preparing for winter shows.

After four to five months of working with my animals it is time to take them to Denver. They have to weigh between 235 and 290 pounds to show. During my class, I show my pig so that the judge can see all views of my pig and compete for



Photo and story by Sam Scanga, a CK reporter from Ault.

the highest placing and to make the Jr. Livestock Sale. This is where all the hard work at home pays off. While at Stock Show, I get to see lots of my friends and other exhibitors that I have met at other shows and meet new exhibitors from around the country that I look forward to seeing at future shows.

I would encourage everyone to come to the National Western Stock Show to watch the pig show on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. There are also sheep, goat and cattle shows that go on that week, and the National Western Stock Show is a great learning experience for people who are unfamiliar with agricultural.

## Make your way to CSU's Ag Adventure



Be sure to stop at CSU's Ag Adventure on the 3rd floor of the Expo Hall when you visit the National Western Stock Show. Photo by CSU Photography.

Cows, corn, chickens and potatoes, OH MY! Follow the golden brick road of CSU's Ag Adventure.

A hidden gem that Colorado State University brings annually to the National Western Stock Show is Ag Adventure, found on the top level of the Expo Hall. This multiple booth, hands on experience, is fun for any age to gain knowledge on every aspect of the agricultural industry brought to you by CSU students and many partners.

Families and children will find themselves immersed in learning about the newest and latest agricultural production, led by CSU students and industrial individuals. Some interactive booths that were featured last year were the Western Dairy Association's milking cow June as well as Colorado Beef's interactive Cow Cam.

Colorado State's students, Ag Adventure Leaders, also work diligently on developing curriculum that is

presented to children that visit on field trips during the weekdays. These short lessons challenge kids' knowledge on agricultural subjects they face every day being a living human. The leader team also creates fun critical thinking games about the agricultural industry for families to enjoy during the weekends.

Making your way through Colorado State University's Ag Adventure at National Western Stock Show will only take about 15-20 minutes, so make sure to make it a place to stop by when visiting this year! The leaders at CSU challenge you and your family to find items of the ag industry from A-Z! You can find us on the 3rd floor of the Expo Center, right next to the petting zoo.

Photo and story by Shelby Fisher, Colorado State University student.

### NWSS Trivia Answers

1. B) 1906
2. E) All of the above
3. D) 25
4. C) 42
5. C) 235-290 pounds
6. A) Lamb
7. C) 16
8. D) Expo Hall
9. D) 250

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