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Beartooth Ranch Sweeps 2008 NILE Steer Challenge

Billings, Mont. – The Northern International Livestock Exposition and Decatur County Feed Yards have released the results from the 2008 NILE Steer Challenge with a five-head pen of steers from Beartooth Ranch of Columbus, MT sweeping both the High Average Carcass Value category and Highest Average Net Return Category. Twenty-two pens of cattle from across Montana and Wyoming were submitted to the NILE Steer Challenge for 2008.

The contest consists of producers entering a pen of five steers to the challenge. The cattle are back grounded for 60-90 days in Billings, MT then trucked to Decatur County Feed Yards in Oberlin, KS to be finished. Cattle are harvested based upon an optimal finish that factors in cost of gain, yield grade, quality grade, and ribeye. Pen averages are determined by using the results of the top four animals.

NILE General Manager Justin Mills says, “The ultimate purpose of this program is to offer producers a way to received back valuable data regarding the feeding efficiency and profitability of your genetics beyond the front gate of your ranch yard.”

The top three in each category are as follows:

- **High Average Carcass Value**
 1. Beartooth Ranch, Columbus, MT (Lots 131-135)
 2. Richard Hamilton, Park City, MT (Lots 126-130)
 3. John Carrel, Columbus, MT (Lots 166-170)

- **Highest Average Net Return**
 1. Beartooth Ranch, Columbus, MT (Lots 131-135)
 2. Richard Hamilton, Park City, MT (Lots 126-130)
 3. Jason Callantine, Belgrade, MT (Lots 151-155)

The NILE Steer Challenge is a cooperative effort between the NILE, Decatur County Feed Yards, the Montana Beef Network, and Westfeeds. For more information about this year’s results or entry for the 2009 contest, please call 406.256.2495 or go to www.thenile.org.

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The NILE is a non-profit organization established in 1967 that is dedicated to the promotion of livestock, agriculture education, and respect of the western tradition. For more information on the NILE Stock Show and ProRodeo contact the NILE office at 406-256-2495 or visit www.thenile.org.