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Richard Hamilton - 2009 NILE Steer Challenge Winner

Billings, Mont. – The Northern International Livestock Exposition and Decatur County Feed Yards have released the results from the 2009 NILE Steer Challenge. Richard Hamilton of Park City, MT is the overall winner of the 2009 Steer Challenge with the highest average adjusted net return on his five-head pen. After coming in second place in 2008 Hamilton was able to edge out all of this year's participants with his pen of Angus steers.

The contest consists of producers entering a pen of five steers to the challenge. The cattle were backgrounded for 30 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 receive back valuable data regarding the feeding efficiency and profitability of your genetics beyond the front gate of your ranch yard."

Here are the top three pens:

Highest Average Adjusted Net Return

1. Richard Hamilton, Park City, MT
2. K4 Cattle Company (Brad Kraft), Billings, MT
3. Hobble Diamond Ranch (Steve Story), Big Timber, MT

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 2010 NILE Steer Challenge, please call 406.256.2495 or go to: www.thenile.org/steer-challenge.

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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.