

FLORIDA'S SECOND IMZA SANCTIONED OPEN MINIATURE ZEBU SHOW

The 2018 Levy County Fair hosted Florida's second IMZA Sanctioned Open Miniature Zebu Cattle show April 7th in Williston, Florida. The first sanctioned show was at the Florida State Fair in Tampa, Florida.

The Other Side Farm's Miniature Zebras have been a big attraction each year at the Levy County Fair since John and Kathleen Schmidt began displaying their Miniature Zebras there in 2008. The fair committee contacted John last fall with a request to hold a show there this year. With limited room in the livestock tent, the Zebras would have to be housed in a separate tent. Levy County Fair is a small, non-profit country fair with a limited budget. The fair committee was willing to stand half the cost of the Zebu tent and provide the judge, ribbons, and rosettes in exchange for a \$20 entry fee. Zebu owners Rick Bogle, Josh Bottelberghe, Ed Rick, and John Schmidt each donated \$200, the National Zebu Cattle Club (NZCC) gave \$380, and the IMZA paid the balance which covered the other half of the tent cost.

John and Kathleen compiled the Zebu Show Entry Packet for the fair's website. They also spent several days preparing for the show, setting up the tie stalls, spreading shavings, and securing the tent with perimeter fencing. Thanks go to Cecelia Delorenzo, a young Zebu enthusiast, for her help with the stall setup.

Part of the agreement was to keep Zebras present for the four-day duration of the fair, so John brought his cattle in Thursday and Rick Bogle moved his in on Friday. Nine more exhibitors arrived Saturday morning for a total of eleven exhibitors with forty-seven Zebras entered in the show that evening.

It appeared that the weather was not going to cooperate. Heavy rains and severe storms were predicted. The winds picked up and one hour before show time, the sky opened up. Everyone scrambled to roll down the sides of the tent to keep tack, hay, and other supplies dry. At one point, the lights went out and we worried that the show would not even take place. But, as quickly as it came, it left. The judge arrived and just when the first class was ready to walk to the show tent, the rains let up and then stopped completely. The rest of the evening went as planned.

Everyone had a good time and the public certainly enjoyed their contact with the "World's Smallest Cattle".