

MONTANA SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION

JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER

FITTING CATTLE

Chance Eaton



CHANCE EATON, IN HIS ELEMENT, FITTING.

Chance Eaton grew up on a small place in Nye, Montana that his folks own. His mom was incredibly involved in the 4H and youth volunteer programs and she made sure to have her children involved in livestock. Chance started out with a handful of sheep and ultimately sold his flock, to pursue his passion in cattle. He laughs when he quotes his friend, Bill Pelton, "Cattle. It's like some people have their drugs and addiction and I have cows."

In the beginning years, 4H and Nile programs, were where his

career really began. Later, at the age of 15, Chance went to AI school. From there, he not only breeds cattle for a living but also as his hobby as well. He is proud to

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use his skills to build the cow that he values. Great muscle and carcass values, clubby but adding milk to her, is the perfect package of a cow in his eyes as well as the addition of docility. Shorthorn cattle have helped him to combine the milking and maintain the muscle, to add into his clubby calves.

Chance is known for his fitting abilities as well. He has been fitting cattle since a young age. He started really being around clipping at the age of 12 or 13 through different 4H programs. He gives credit to Brian Barragree, for really getting him started. He is amazed at how the fitting industry continues to evolve. Chance explains, "It's such an art form, seeing an animal's qualities highlighted and hiding his flaws. Any given day, you can create a piece of art for a few hours and then it is gone. It may be the difference of winning or losing." At 31 years old, Chance says he's still constantly learning. Especially in an industry that is continues to evolve, he will never stop learning.

When asked if there was a certain type of cow, build, hair, color, breed etc. that he enjoyed polishing up for a show the most, Chance said, "Reds, because where a person can hide a lot with black, it's harder to hide on a colored animal. Black always wins and if you can win with a colored animal, you

These photos were sent to us by member Diane Morgan of Oregon, of her great grandsons, Eli and Noah. They are shown here, with a set of twin Shorthorns that they took to the Harney County Fair. She writes, "The white steer was Grand Champion Beef and the twin roan heifer was Lightweight Reserve Champion."



SUCCESS ISN'T OVER NIGHT. IT'S WHEN EVERYDAY YOU GET A LITTLE BETTER THAN BEFORE. IT ADDS UP.

-DWAYNE JOHNSON

know you've really used your skills." When he is working on a red animal, it is hard to hide a nick and it is hard to paint over flaws, like a person can on a black animal. Then adding white and the difficulties of keeping it clean, on a red and

white animal, on top of highlighting its qualities and hiding its flaw, it is a challenge and harder to fit. Chance loves a challenge.

Andis 5 speed clippers, a tiger comb and tail adhesive are three things we will not find him at a show without. "With at least those three, I can fit something, the rest is just a bonus," he laughs. He suggests having tail adhesive, whether

you are a beginner or pro, it can be manipulated and worked. For anyone new to the fitting scene, Chance's advice is to practice! "Halter break them and keep practicing, learn all



CHANCE RAISES SOME OUTSTANDING CATTLE. PERFORMERS IN AND OUT OF THE RING

that you can about daily grooming and care. What you put into it, is what you get out of it. It takes more than just feeding them, training the hair is huge too." Even when an animal isn't getting bathed in the colder weather, putting show coat or other oils and working with the hair, will help it grow as well as train it. This includes blowing out the animal as well. Hair needs to be trained every day, if not, every other. Chance's advice to kids getting involved in showing cattle, "Watch the winners fit. Look at your own animal instead of just doing something to do it. Address your own animal's flaws. It is a whole lot of livestock judging, making them look more structurally sound. It's important to know where to pull hair up and why."

Chance is an asset to Montana's cattle industry, through his breeding business, the cattle he raises, the kids and adults both that he has helped along the way, his fitting abilities and his passion for it all. Montana Shorthorn Association looks forward to hosting fitting

classes with Chance down the road. Mr. Eaton raises some outstanding cattle, he will have a sale this Fall, for anyone in the market.

MONTANA SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

June 6, 2020

President: Kelsey Friedly

Vice President: Lukrisha Mattison

Secretary/Treasurer: Bonnie Klose

The Montana Shorthorn Association looks forward to serving you, as a source of connection and promotion of

the Shorthorn breed. Please feel free to contact us any time!

Follow us on

Instagram:

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www.montanashorthornassociation.org

We look forward to getting to know each and every one of you!

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LOOK FOR OUR PROFILE PICTURE OF THE RED BULL HEAD, WITH MONTANA SHORTHORN ASSOCIATION WRITTEN UNDERNEATH

