

Daisy & Joy at the 2010 Chatham International: Youth in Agriculture

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Every year at the Columbia County Fair in Chatham, NY, the 4-H youth come and show their projects that they have been working on all year. Many of them have nicknamed the fair, the "Chatham International". Sounds like the biggest show of the year. Well it is for some of them, and after working for so long to train their animals and get them ready, the time finally arrives and it is an exciting weekend for all.

The fair this year had its newest attendee, Ms. Daisy Blass, a 5 year old from Ghent. Being around livestock for her life thus far has been good for Daisy, but it all looked up the day that she met her heifer 'Joy'. Born a twin during a cold time in the winter, Joy became "under the weather" soon after she was born, at Trowbridge Farms in Ghent. But she was nursed back to good health by Daisy & the Trowbridges', and became very friendly towards people after that. When Daisy decided that she would like to take her new pet and friend, whom she named 'Joy' to the great "Chatham International" this year, she knew she had lots of work to do to get her trained. Training to walk and set-up her heifer, like she needed for the show ring, wasn't an easy task for a 5 year old. Between Daisy, her mother Miranda, and some guidance from PJ Trowbridge, Joy was doing well in her training. Daisy was building her excitement for the fair.

That important weekend finally came around at the fair and Daisy and Joy made their debut in the cattle barns-they were well liked by the other exhibitors and fair visitors. Finally, when show day came around, Daisy and Joy were ready for their first time in the show ring. By the end of the show, the smile on Daisy's face was priceless. Not only did she have fun, but Daisy and Joy won the

Angus breed show and went on to win the Supreme Champion of the whole Beef Show.

Being young and being involved in agriculture has strengthened many of the youth around Columbia County. We should all be grateful for them and for their inspiring energy..just like Daisy and Joy.



Photo by: Richard Beaven