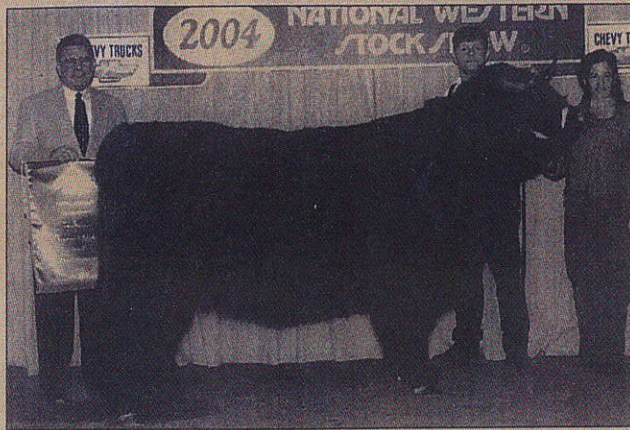


## Greensboro Bend

# Highland Cow Named Queen Of Her Breed At National Show



With the presiding judge, left, Ray Shatney and Janet Steward show off Shatney's Scottish Highland cow, Cinnamon Swirl of Shat-Acres, Greensboro, at the 2004 National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo. Cinnamon Swirl was declared the national champion of her breed.

BY ROGER LeCOURS  
News Correspondent

If Cinnamon Swirl holds her nose up a little higher and carries her 1,350 pounds more regally than the 50 other Scottish Highland cows at Shat-Acres Farm, she has good reason.

Cinnamon Swirl is the undisputed star of owner Ray Shatney's herd and right now she is the nationwide queen of her breed. Cinnamon Swirl was selected as the national grand champion Highland female among the 2-year-olds in her class at the Western National Stock Show held last month at Denver Coliseum in Denver, Colo.

Scottish Highland cattle are distinguished by their double coat of long hair and their ability to adapt to their environment. Shatney finds them easy to own because they eat regular hay and grain and require a minimum amount of daily care.

Scottish Highland cattle are one of the oldest cattle breeds in the world, said Shat-

ney.

Cinnamon Swirl was judged the best of the 218 Highland cattle entered in the Denver show from throughout the country.

She won the blue ribbon for being the top 2-year-old in her class before competing against the winners of the other 2-year-old groups then going on to compete against all other winners, including calves and yearlings, Shatney said.

The two-week long Denver event is the

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largest Highland cattle show in the country. There are 1,200 Highland breeders in the United States and there are 11,000 registered Highland animals.

Shatney works in the woods, doing business as Shatney Tree Service. He could take only three days off for the Denver show. He was accompanied by his girl-

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the press time for  
The Caledonian-Record

THE CALEDONIAN-RECORD • Friday, February 27, 2004

## Highland Cow

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friend, Janet Steward of Plainfield, a kindergarten teacher at the elementary school in Morrisville.

Steward helps Shatney with the care, feeding and grooming of his animals.

"These cattle are a lot of fun to work with," Steward said. "They all have personalities. When Cinnamon Swirl goes into the show ring she knows that she is on display."

Steward said getting Cinnamon Swirl ready for showing involves hosing her down and then combing and blowing dry her coat. They also polish her hooves and horns. Shatney said it cost \$1,000 to send two animals to Denver, plus the cost of the humans' plane tickets.

"The trip is about \$2,000 in all," Shatney said.

There's great fanfare and Scottish tradition at the Denver show.

"People come in Scottish kilts and the bagpipes play for the first class male and female animals," Shatney said. "Normally, the animals are well-behaved but they don't ply bagpipes for the big bulls.

There's a lot of power in that ring when the bulls go in"

Shatney considers Cinnamon Swirl's national award to be the highlight of his life as a breeder of Highland cattle. "There is a big banquet and you are recognized," he said. "A magazine is published and Cinnamon Swirl is in it."

"A lot of people in Denver wanted to buy Cinnamon Swirl but Ray kept her for breeding because she's more valuable for that," Steward added.

Shatney and Steward returned from Denver with Cinnamon Swirl's blue ribbon and a bronze trophy which Shatney says he will always treasure. He also brought home a revolving silver trophy he will keep until next year's show in Denver when the champion for 2005 is selected.

Shatney also received the coveted national Western National Stock Show jacket which only owners of the top female and male Highlands get to wear. It was a big day for Vermont because Ted Robbins, owner of Trafalgar Square Farms in Pomfret, also was awarded trophies and a jack-

et. Robbins' prized bull, Luther, was judged national champion among males. Shatney said Robbins shared the glory with his herdsman, Gregory Markwell.

Cinnamon Swirl and Luther were transported to Denver in a trailer vehicle owned and driven by E.Z. Braun, a 78-year-old Ohio man who took some of his own animals to the national show.

Cinnamon Swirl is accustomed to winning. Last August she was declared champion of the competition at the New York State Fair and she was the winner at the Orleans County Fair and the Caledonia County Fair.

Shatney's herd of Highland cattle is at Shat-Acres Farm, the family homestead where his parents, Carroll, 92, and Polly, 79, still live. Ray's home is directly across Route 16 from the farm where the elder Shatneys raised their family. Ray Shatney is a 1971 graduate of Hazen Union School in Hardwick.

"My parents started showing dairy cattle and then they changed to Highlands in 1967 when they bought a cow that had

been brought from the Dakotas," he said. "She was almost 20 years old. These Highland cows can breed at an old age and this one was bred through artificial insemination. She had a brand and the inseminator was able to trace it back. He got semen from Highland bulls."

Cinnamon Swirl descended from that first cow. In June 2003 Carroll and Polly Shatney went to the national Highland Convention in Springfield, Mo., where they were inducted into the National Highland Cattle Hall of Fame. The Hall of Fame is in Denver.

The show tour schedule for Highland cattle begins in May of each year and continues until January. Shatney's next tour stop will be Mercer, Pa., but Cinnamon Swirl will not make that trip. "Cinnamon Swirl will not be shown again until she has a calf at her side," he said.

"Years ago we sent cattle to Canada, Australia and throughout the United States but my parents never imagined that we would ever have cattle going out to the Denver show."