Live Stock Show Again Centers Attention on Prize Animals

Now in progress at the International Amphitheater in Chicago is the thirty-eighth Live Stock show, a revival of an exhibition that annually calls attention to the fact that horses, cattle, sheep, and swine are highly important in this busy world of ours.

- The horse as a draft animal continues to perform its daily task on highway and farm despite the amazing increase in automobiles and auto trucks. And for show purposes and racing and in other equine fields the horse today is regarded more highly, perhaps, than ever before. The fancy prices that it brings is proof of this.

- Cattle, sheep, and hogs are raised principally to provide food in the forms of beef, veal, lamb, and pork, although dairy products and wool are small items of world consumption and world trade, and countless other commodities, such as hides, hair, glue, and fertilizer, are derived from slaughtered animals. Pure-breeds of these species are held in the greatest esteem for show purposes and breeding and often command high prices.

- The Live Stock show, the correct appellation of which is the International Live Stock Exposition and Horse Show, sees approximately 14,000 animals of thirty different breeds, from this country and Canada, on exhibition. The value of these animals is conservatively estimated at three times that of all the automobiles, trucks, and trailers that filled the vast amphitheater during the Chicago Automobile show, held during

A champion merino ram from Xeric, O. The merino is the most widely distributed sheep in the world.

Grand champion Hereford female of the 1936 Live Stock show owned by the late Robert Hadnall of Eldorado, Tex. This animal was sold for $3,100 to S. L. Wilson, Prescott, Ariz., the second week of this month. That the live stock industry of the United States of America ranks among the leading industries is evidenced by the fact that animals on the farms and ranches of this country in 1936 were valued at almost five billion dollars.

- The purpose of the Live Stock show is to promote the breeding and raising not only of pure-bred stock but of the types of animals considered best for slaughtering purposes. The exposition actually has set the standard for the type of market hog demanded by the great packing companies. And in this connection it might be pointed out that by many economists the price of hogs has come to be considered the most dependable index of general business conditions.

- So specialized has become the raising of quality steers for the beef market that astounding prices have been paid for the grand champions of the Live Stock show. In 1936, for example, the grand champion steer was sold for $4,250 a pound, or more than $7,800 for the entire animal.

- A commendable feature of the Live Stock show is the interest that it takes in the youth of the country. Farm boys and girls of more than forty states are taking part in animal judging, exhibiting, and other contests.

Belgian stallion, Parcour du Morant, owned by E. O. Buchheitz of Columbus, O. It was winner of second place in class for 4-year-old at the 1936 Live Stock show. The Belgium is a direct descendant of the old Flemish heavy horse of the middle ages.

At right: Barbara Whitaker of Greenville, Ill., with her prize shorthorn, representative of a breed that thrives under diverse conditions of soil, climate, and situation.