

- PREPPING FOR THE BIG SHOW -

'Lil Bit' caps career at 40th Fair

TERESA VILLARREAL

The La Salle County Junior Livestock Show represents the culmination of months of hard work for many students that often begins with early mornings and ends in late nights.

Exercise, watchfulness, and trips to the vet become a normal routine for students as they learn to raise animals for show. Investing their time and money, these students dedicate themselves to the education of properly raising a healthy animal and the discipline to perform their duties well.

This year's spotlight is on seventeen-year-old Elisabeth "Little Bit" Flores. She will be showcasing her beloved steer at the Junior Livestock Show in Cotulla. Affectionately naming her trusty steer "Champ", Elisabeth has been caring for him since the end of July, 2018. Currently a senior at Cotulla High School, Elisabeth is excited to show him off at this year's show. With three Showmanship buckles won since her adventure in livestock began,



Elisabeth 'Lil Bit' Flores & Champ

Elisabeth is eagerly anticipating the next opportunity to win one more.

The youngest of three siblings, she is the daughter of Luis Flores and Elsa Flores. Both parents are affiliated with the Cotulla Independent School District as Elisabeth's father is the Transportation Coordinator at

CISD and her mother is a teacher at Frank Newman Middle School.

"She is very active in a lot of sports and FFA. We are so proud of her achievements and encourage her to always do her best," says Luis about his youngest child. "Working on this project has brought us closer. She works hard and even though she's been stepped on and kicked by her steer, she doesn't give up. This is a good life lesson to learn. It's about responsibility, and I feel this is going to help her prepare for her future. Nothing comes easy and if she doesn't quit, she'll always win."

With older siblings, both graduates of Cotulla High and also experienced in showing livestock in the past, Elisabeth continues on her positive path with the full support of her family. As the excitement of the LSCF Jr. Livestock Show starts to set in, Flores is ready to share her passion for agriculture with her friends and fellow competitors by exhibiting her commitment in this field by raising her animal with the utmost care.

"I have been showing my beef

project since I was in sixth grade. My family has always been a big part of the stock show, the Wild Hog Cook-off and the Ranch Rodeo," Flores said. "They were all a big part of the reason why I chose to join 4-H and FFA and show my steers."

"Showing a steer has taught me a life lesson: 'God honors hard work'. It takes a lot of work to make sure that your steer is always healthy and happy. It requires help from your family because the steer requires care every single day and if you are involved in other extra-curricular activities, you need to make sure that someone is there to do the daily chores for you. At the end of it all, after shedding some tears for your steer, you feel nothing but gratification to God and everyone that helped along the way."

Encouraged by her family, Flores eagerly joined the Future Farmers of America (FFA) as of the sixth grade. She has been showing steer with the help of her family and her agriculture teachers, Rodolfo "Bolo" Rodriguez and Sammy Yanez. Going above and beyond their call of duty, these

AG teachers of CHS have gone as far as accepting house calls to go and help doctor their student's animals to good health.

"Mr. Yanez and Mr. Rodriguez have been so helpful with showing me how to care for Champ," said Elisabeth. "My FFA advisors have helped so much and always go out of their way to make sure that all of the FFA students learn and have fun at the same time."

Working on a tight schedule that revolves around her sports and student career, Elisabeth diligently cares for her steer with the help of her father. Caring for Champ every day, Flores works hard to maintain the proper care for her animal with strict feeding schedules, a meticulously maintained pen, and constant vigilance over his health concerns. Working closely with her steer daily, Elisabeth practices their showmanship skills, and together they have become a great team.

The Flores/Avila Ranch, located in Cotulla, is where the Flores family and Champ call home. With a culmination of seven years showing steer and a glowing student career, it's easy to see why her family is so proud.

Along with FFA, Elisabeth's many activities include: National Honor Society, varsity volleyball, varsity basketball, varsity softball, varsity track, and is a current member of the University of Texas at Austin Jackson School of Geosciences-Geo Force Alumni.

"Sports have been a big part of my high school life. I have been in cross country, volleyball, basketball, softball and track, where I have served as team captain and have earned many district honors in every sport. I have also served as a class officer since my freshman year," she says. "In academics, I have managed

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**Have Fun at
the La Salle
County Fair
& Wild Hog
Cook-Off!**

