



The Hansons stand in front of a few of their cows and calves. (From left) Katlynn, Nicole, Cindy, Gabe and Morgan. (Mike Kolbe, photo)

## Horsing around all business for these beef producers

**Hanson** *from front page*

Pigs, horses, and even goats have found their way into the fair through the Hanson girls.

Nicole and Katlynn each have a few “leftover” 4-H heifers in the herd.

Gabe is now offering his leadership as a member of the Shelby County Fair Board. As Cindy describes it, “It really is like it’s own small family of good people that have a lot in common, wanting to build the future of agriculture in Shelby County.”

The Hansons are also members of the Shelby Co. Cattlemen’s Association, and their girls have been recipients of the organization’s annual heifer scholarship. Morgan, who graduated from IKM-Manning High School this year, received her scholarship a few years ago, and her cows are now in production with the family’s herd.

Nicole received the scholarship this year, following the completion of two years at Des Moines Area Community College.

“The Shelby County Cattlemen’s group is huge in this county. There are so many great things that they do beyond the scholarship program,” she said.

Another large component to the Hanson’s operation is their horse breeding and training business, “Hanson Performance Horses”. Cindy and the girls run this part of the operation.

“Gabe supports that a lot by taking care of everything on the farm while the girls and I go show,” Cindy said with appreciation.

All three girls have won World Champion Titles, while Cindy and Gabe have raised and sold five World Champions.



Breeding, training and showing horses plays a vital role in the Hanson’s farm operation. (From left) Katlynn, Cindy, Nicole, Gabe and Morgan with mare Cinco (born on Cinco de Mayo) and her foal, Cheyenne, the newest addition to the horse barn. Cheyenne is just a week old in this picture.

“Promoting the show stock helps promote the stallion,” she explained.

As hectic as it is, this farm life is exactly what Gabe and Cindy have worked for. Planting and harvesting corn & soybeans, growing and baling hay, and working and processing the cows and calves is a family affair.

“It’s always a chore to get everything done, Cindy said, “but a chore that we all take pride in.”