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INTERIOR TO AUCTION LONGHORNS IN OKLAHOMA AND NEBRASKA

Texas longhorns, 140 living symbols of the Old West, will be auctioned at Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, near Cache, Okla., on September 21, and at Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Valentine, Nebr., on October 24, the Department of the Interior announced today.

The sales, to begin at 1:00 p.m., will include mature animals and calves, which are being sold to reduce the herds to range capacity.

The longhorn is the oldest breed of cattle in North America. With an ancestry traced to fighting bulls of Spain and molded into a distinct breed by natural selection and adaptation to a rugged Southwestern environment, longhorns played a major role in the economic development of post-Civil War Texas.

Longhorns were replaced as beef producers by other breeds about the turn of the century, and became practically extinct. The herd at Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge was established in 1927 by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife to preserve the breed. Six calves were moved to Fort Niobrara Refuge to start another herd in 1936.

One hundred longhorns are to be sold at the Wichita Mountains public auction and 40 at Fort Niobrara.

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