

Youth Understand End Product Through Carcass Contest

46 steers entered in NJAS Carcass Contest.

by **Molly Witzel**

A total of 33 Angus juniors entered 46 head of steers in the 2010 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) Carcass Contest, July 12, in Denver, Colo.

The contest, established in 1985, helps junior Angus members understand the products they produce — quality Angus beef.

Carcass steers were evaluated using actual carcass data and a value-based grid. Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) staff tabulated the results from the data collected by Colorado State University (CSU) staff at a local processing facility.

“There was tremendous quality with only one with a higher yield grade than ideal,” says Mark McCully, CAB assistant vice president of supply development. “It was really an outstanding set of cattle all the way through.”

2010 NJAS Carcass Contest champion honors go to CLB Romeo 906, entered by Cortney Bromenshenk, Billings, Mont. The steer had a live weight of 1,200 pounds (lb.) and a ribeye area of 14.8 square inches (sq. in.). The March 2009 son of PB Juneau F5 graded Prime with a Yield Grade (YG) of 2.2.

Reserve champion goes to Bear Mtn. Crossover 9099, entered by Reagan Skow, Palisade, Neb. The steer weighed 1,204 lb. with a ribeye area of 13.6 sq. in. The March 2009 son of BT Crossover 758N also graded Prime, with a YG of 3.0.

“In general, this was a really high grading set of cattle with several Primes, and a high percentage of the carcasses were either a Prime or a CAB®” McCully says.

Twenty-two entries met specifications for the *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) brand.

McCully says the NJAS Carcass Contest is an excellent educational opportunity for Angus juniors. He says showing and evaluating the cattle is valuable, but understanding the final product is essential.

“It’s great first-hand experience of the real cattle industry,” he says. “It’s important to actually be able to send some cattle to the rail and to the packing plant to find out how they did and see what kind of value was established on their [the contestants] individual animals as determined by their carcass value.

“It’s a great experience for young folks,” McCully adds. “I think it’s important to become familiar with what makes an ideal market steer in terms of different carcass measurements, because that ultimately is what determines how well each animal will do. Understanding what makes a Prime or a CAB, that’s what the industry is asking for, and that’s ultimately what this contest will report.”

Cash awards for the top 10 entries are sponsored by Curtis and Ann Long, Butler, Mo., through their permanent endowment fund established through the Angus Foundation.



Editor’s Note: Molly Witzel is the 2010 American Angus Association summer intern, working in the Public Relations and Communications Department.



PHOTOS BY CRYSTAL YOUNG

► **Cortney Bromenshenk** (left), Billings, Mont., and **Reagan Skow** (right), Palisade, Neb., claimed grand champion and reserve grand champion carcass steers, respectively. Bromenshenk’s 1,200-lb. steer was sired by PB Juneau F5 with a 2.2 YG. Skow’s steer was sired by BT Crossover 758N and weighed in at 1,204 lb. He had a YG of 3.0. **Curtis Long** (center), Briarwood Angus Farms, presents the awards.



► Kansas juniors swept the state carcass group contest. Kansas Group 1 and Kansas Group 3 claimed first and second place, respectively. Pictured are (from left) **Cole Gardiner** and **Ransom Gardiner**, both of Ashland.