

Granddaddy of Door Prizes

Convention attendees take home more than \$100,00 in grand prize giveaways.

The Grand Prize Giveaway during the 2017 Angus Convention packed the stands with hopefuls. A gleaming black Cat 289 Compact Track Loader with a silver Angus decal and a Priefert and Tru-Test Complete Cattle Handling System sat front and center of the arena. More than 1,500 Convention attendees entered for their chance to take home the prizes; two won big.

Handling system

David Lutchka of Grass Lake, Mich., took home the cattle handling system, valued at \$27,000.

“I’ve never had this happen to me before,”



David Lutchka of Grass Lake, Mich., took home the cattle handling system, valued at \$27,000.

Grand prize winners take home cattle handling system, loader.

Lutchka said. “When I found out I was a winner, the only thing I could think was ‘holy cow.’ This thing will add to the operation by removing the wooden alleyway that we have. It’ll make it safer, a little more efficient.”

The handling system, donated by Priefert and Tru-Test, is designed for about 35 head. The corral features a solid sweep with a straight working



Northport, Ala., native Keith Ergle was the lucky winner of the one-of-a-kind, custom-built Angus Cat Track Loader, a \$90,000 piece of equipment.

3 win custom hats for judging skills

alley, adjustable to one of four widths, leading to a Priefert Model S04 Squeeze Chute. The Tru-Test XR5000 Indicator, HD1010 load bars, scale mounting brackets and XRS2 eID stick reader are all part of the package and capture a wide range of animal information.

An added bonus is the new Tru-Test WaterWell automatic waterer, which can accommodate up to 100 head.


Loader

Northport, Ala., native Keith Ertle was the lucky winner of the one-of-a-kind, custom-built Angus Cat Track Loader, a \$90,000 piece of equipment.

"I'm a bit in shock," Ertle said. "We really need the machine on our operation. We have an old machine that is really dilapidated, and it couldn't have come at a better time."

The Cat 289D, donated by Caterpillar, is versatile and helps producers to multitask with ease. The customized machine can move bales, clean pens, mix feed and more.

Giveaway sponsors Priefert, Tru-Test and Caterpillar helped to create a memorable Convention for two very lucky Angus breeders.

To learn more about the 2017 Angus Convention and our generous sponsors, visit www.angus.org/Media/News/AngusConvention.aspx. 

Editor's Note: This article is provided by the American Angus Association.

Attendees at the 2017 Angus Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, had the opportunity to utilize their livestock judging skills during a competition Nov. 5 within the live cattle demonstration area of the trade show. The judging contest drew 128 total contestants and at least as many spectators.

Participants placed four classes of Angus cattle — two sets of breeding heifers and two sets of yearling bulls. Selection scenarios were given for two of the classes, and questions were asked on one set of performance bulls.

The contest was divided into three age divisions: youth (13 and under), young adult (age 14-21) and adult (22 and older). The winner in each age division was awarded a custom-made Beaver 20 hat — valued at \$650 each — donated by Greeley Hat Works.

Colter Pohlman, Hereford, Texas, took home top honors in the youth division. Fellow Texan **Cooper Dube** of Thorndale placed first in the young adult category. **Jeff Nemecek**, Iola, Kan., placed first in the adult division and was also named the overall winner with the highest score.

Mark Sims, American Angus Association regional manager



Jeff Nemecek (left), Iola, Kan., won the adult division and was named overall winner in the 2017 Angus Convention Livestock Judging Contest. Continuing from left are Trent Johnson, Greeley Hat Works; **Colter Pohlman**, Hereford, Texas, winner of the youth division; **Cooper Dube**, Thorndale, Texas, winner of the young adult division; and **Mark Sims**, American Angus Association regional manager.

covering Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi, coordinated the 2017 Angus Convention Judging Contest with assistance from fellow regional managers Radale Tiner and Jeff Mafi, who selected the classes, and Casey Jentz, Chris Jeffcoat and Drew Feller, who helped number the cattle and sort during the contest. Additional Association staff members helped with the registration and score tabulation process.

"It's always fun and educational to bring Angus enthusiasts of all ages together to evaluate cattle and gain insight from the final placings discussed by the officials," said Sims of the event.

The heifer classes were provided by Cox Ranches, Weatherford, Texas, and the bull classes were provided by Evans Farm, Stephenville, Texas.

Ryan Rathmann, Texas Tech University animal science professor and livestock judging coach, and Austin Adams, a member of the 2016 National Champion Texas Tech Livestock Judging Team, were the officials. Rathmann is the all-time

winningest coach in the 100-plus-year history of collegiate livestock judging.