

Wilson Named Herdsman of the Year

BY ERIC GRANT

Four o'clock in the morning isn't the time of day most folks find themselves at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS). But that's precisely when Chad Wilson begins each day during the Angus show in Denver. Most nights, the 25-year-old herdsman from Cloverdale, Ind., works until 8 or 9, making sure the 20 cattle under his care are "watered, fed, brushed out and ready to go."

Needless to say, the pillow back at the hotel feels pretty good each night. The work he does can be exhausting, sometimes tedious and physically demanding, but Wilson's commitment to excellence runs deep. And, in his own quiet way, he likes the adrenaline rush of competition.

For these reasons, Wilson's fellow herdsmen named him "Angus Herdsman of the Year" in Denver, a recognition he says caught him totally off guard.

"It's the highlight of my career," he says.

Wilson, who works with his parents at Wilson Cattle Co., a well-known Angus seedstock operation, loves the cattle business. He enjoys the outdoors, working with cattle and being around people.

"I've had the opportunity to judge a few county and state shows," he says. "That's a real honor."

In total, Wilson shows cattle at about nine exhibitions around the country each year, not including the numerous club-calf shows in which he also competes. He estimates he logs about 10,000 miles each year, racing back and forth across the country to compete in these events. And don't forget the 50 nights each year he spends in a hotel.

Wilson hopes to continue taking on more management responsibilities at the operation in the future. He wants to continue the family's commitment to producing good cattle, the kind that work for all segments of the industry.

"The cattle that do well in the showring are more often than not the better individuals in a breed. They often have better performance, and their EPDs (expected progeny differences) are acceptable," Wilson says.





Judge Ernie Wallace congratulates Chad Wilson for showing a reserve champion division winner at the 2001 National Western Stock Show.



Chad Wilson (right), Cloverdale, Ind., received the Herdsman's buckle from Bryce Schumann, American Angus Association director of activities.

