

NJAS Celebrates 50

The National Junior Angus Show turns 50 as Angus enthusiasts gather in Madison, Wis., July 7-13.

by Laura Bardot, American Angus Association

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). This year's event, themed "Living the Dream in 2018," will be hosted July 7-13, 2018, in Madison, Wis.



"This year, we are celebrating the past 50 years of the National Junior Angus Show and looking forward to the bright future of the industry," said Jaclyn Upperman, American Angus Association director of events and education. "Junior members and their families will bring black cattle to the heart of America's dairyland in July and will not be disappointed. We are again expecting an impressive turnout."

The tentative schedule of events is available online, along with entry forms. In addition to show entry forms, contest sign-up has been directed online through AAA Login, which will make the process smoother for both junior members and advisors.

Cattle show

NJAS has been dubbed the most competitive junior show in the nation. More than 1,000 head of registered Angus cattle will compete in classes including owned heifers, bred-and-owned (B&O) heifers, cow-calf pairs, steers and B&O bulls. States will compete for best five head and state herdsman titles, while individual members will compete for Junior Premier Breeder and Junior Herdsman honors. A top-five selection of B&O heifers and owned heifers will be chosen at the conclusion of each respective show.

May 15 is the early-entry and ownership deadline, and participants

can submit entries online at www.angus.org/njaa.

Check-in for the 2018 NJAS will begin at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 7, and all entries must be signed in by 8:30 a.m. Sunday, July 8.

The 52nd Annual National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest will be hosted in conjunction with the 2018 NJAS. Two participants selected from each state are eligible to compete for top showman honors.

Educational contests/events

In addition to the showing, National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members have the opportunity to participate in challenging contests. The seven-day event will include competitions involving all aspects of the beef cattle industry, from leadership and livestock judging to public speaking, marketing and carcass evaluation.

The educational components of the show allow junior members to gain knowledge and confidence to think on their feet, as well as an opportunity to develop professional skills in many contests. Some contests — including photography, graphic design and creative writing — are evaluated prior to the event and allow those who can't attend a chance to compete.

Youth interested in participating in contests hosted at the NJAS can sign up during cattle check-in at the show. Contests include team sales, team fitting, extemporaneous speaking, livestock judging, cook-off, prepared public speaking, career development, quiz bowl, skill-a-thon and an overall stockman.

This year's event will feature a new

auctioneer contest open to any junior member wanting to showcase their auctioneering skills. The poster contest also has been revamped into the Beef Science Poster contest to provide a more educational, research-based contest.

Each state can enter a team in the quiz bowl, team sales, team fitting and team marketing contests. Also, each state can enter a team in the American Angus Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-off, herdsman and scrapbook contests.

Another opportunity for youth to get involved during the NJAS is the mentoring program. This is a way to help younger members prepare for a successful future. The program pairs a senior and novice together for activities during the show, giving the younger members the chance to become acquainted with other juniors.

During the already jam-packed, weeklong event, NJAA hosts its annual meeting. Two delegates from each state will gather to review the organization's bylaws and elect six new directors to the NJAA board. The new officers and directors will be announced during the awards program at the conclusion of the week.

Visit the NJAA website for more information on contest deadlines or contact the Events and Education department at 816-383-5100. Please note, there are no exceptions to any of the ownership or entry deadlines. **AJ**

Editor's Note: Laura Bardot is a communications specialist for the American Angus Association.