

Running for the Roses

Angus youth will “Win, Place and Show for the Purple” July 14-20 in Lexington, Ky., at the 2019 National Junior Angus Show.

by Karen Hiltbrand, American Angus Association

The air is brisk as the sun peeks over the horizon. It is just after 6 a.m., and the breath of exhaling, dew-covered cattle is a view Angus families are accustomed to as they walk cattle in from tie-outs.

While most kids sleep in during summer breaks, this couldn't be further from the truth for National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members. It's the week everyone waits for; a week where memories are made, relationships are built and hard work pays off. As anticipation and excitement fill the barn, it can only mean one thing — it's the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

This year marks the turn of the half century for the NJAS. With

Churchill Downs just a hop, skip and a jump away, junior members will be running for the roses in the heart of elite racehorse country.



“Every year we look forward to the NJAS,” says Jaelyn Upperman, American Angus Association director of events and education. “Not only are great cattle exhibited, but even better

juniors, families and producers are able to come together and congregate to exemplify what truly makes the breed so great — the people.”

The schedule of events is available online at www.njas.info, along with entry forms. Contest sign-up is also available online through AAA Login.

Junior show

NJAS has been deemed one of the most competitive junior shows 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 2019 NJAS

will begin at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, July 13, and all entries must be signed in by 8:30 a.m. Sunday, July 14.

The 53rd Annual National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest will be hosted in conjunction with the 2019 NJAS. Two participants selected from each state are eligible to compete for top showman honors.

Educational events

The NJAA offers a contest for every junior, no matter his or her interests. The seven-day event will include competitions involving all aspects of the beef cattle industry — from 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 contests. Some contests — including photography, graphic design and creative writing — are evaluated prior to the event and allow those who can't attend the chance to still compete.

Youth interested in participating

in contests hosted at the NJAS can sign up during cattle check-in at the show.

Contests hosted during the NJAS include team sales, team fitting, extemporaneous speaking,

livestock judging, the American Angus Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off, prepared public speaking, career development, quiz bowl, skill-a-thon, poster presentation,

auctioneering and stockman.

Each state can enter a team in the following contests: quiz bowl, team sales, team fitting and team marketing. The Auxiliary sponsors the Cook-Off, herdsmanship and scrapbook contests.

Programs and events

With Junior members from around the country attending NJAS, the mentoring program is a unique way for youth to develop relationships with individuals not from their home states. In this program, a senior member is paired with a new member to develop a mentor relationship and allow the junior to experience different opportunities available throughout the show.

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 National Junior Angus Board (NJAB). The new officers and directors will be announced during the closing ceremonies at the end of the week.

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— Jaclyn Upperman



In addition to the show, contests and annual meeting, attendees are able to freshen up their skills or gain new ones through the various educational clinics provided by the sponsors of the show. For more information on the scheduled clinics, see the NJAS schedule online.

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**