

Focus on the Future

Use your “2020 vision” to bring your dreams in focus at the 2020 National Junior Angus Show in Harrisburg, Pa.

by Karen Hiltbrand, American Angus Association

“Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without a vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world,” said Joel A. Barker.

Time is already ticking, and in a few short months it will be time for many junior Angus members’ and their families’ favorite week of the year: the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

In the agricultural industry it’s known that leaders inspire leaders. The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) assists in encouraging both past and present juniors to focus on their goals and to follow their dreams.

There’s no question the week is filled with abundant contests, quality

cattle and even better people that will allow exhibitors to enhance their focus and build their network of people to span the entire country.

Join fellow Angus enthusiasts and “Focus on the Future,” July 5-11, in Harrisburg, Pa. Visit historic Pennsylvania with the Angus family to see the city’s beauty, and learn its rich history relating to the Civil War, westward expansion and the Industrial Revolution.

“It’s the best seven days of the year,” says Jaelyn Upperman, American Angus Association director of events and education. “It is truly a week that we look forward to all year long, because all the Angus family is all together in one place.”

The schedule of events is available online at <http://njas.info>, along with entry forms. In addition to show entry forms, contest sign-up will be available online through AAA Login.

Junior show

Watch out for the laser vision juniors bring to the ring as they compete in the junior show and showmanship. The week is the super bowl of Angus shows, and NJAA members mean business.

On average more than 1,000 head of registered Angus cattle compete in classes including owned heifers,

bred-and-owned (B&O) heifers, cow-calf pairs, steers and B&O bulls. New to the NJAS this year, juniors will have the opportunity to step into the ring one more time if they choose to compete the Phenotype and Genotype Show (PGS).

The PGS show will be hosted Thursday, July 9 at 8 a.m. PGS creates an additional competitive opportunity while also allowing junior members to learn the value of expected progeny differences (EPDs) as part of the process in selecting quality seedstock.

States will also 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.

Entry deadlines have been modified in response to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, and exhibitors and their families will be notified of any other changes. May 15 is the paper



entry deadline, and May 16-25 is the online-entry and ownership deadline. Participants can submit entries online at www.angus.org/njaa. Check-in for the 2020 NJAS will begin at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, July 5, and all entries must be in by 8 p.m. that same evening.

Again this year the 54th Annual National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest will be hosted in conjunction with the 2020 NJAS. Two participants selected from each state will compete for top showman honors.

Educational contests and events

Not only do juniors bring the heat in the show ring, but they set the standard high during the various contests held throughout the week. The seven-day event includes competitions that are sure to get everyone involved. From the judging contest to the coloring contest, there is an opportunity for everyone.

The educational component of the week allows junior members to gain knowledge and confidence to think on their feet, as well as an opportunity to develop professional skills in contests.



A few of the contests are evaluated before NJAS. These contests include photography, graphic design and creative writing and are evaluated prior to the event and allow those who can't attend a chance to compete.

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

States can enter teams in the team sales, quiz bowl, team fitting, team marketing and the American Angus Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-off. Each state also competes in the herdsmanship contest and can enter their state's scrapbook into competition.

Junior members also have the opportunity to take part in the Angus Mentoring

Program (AMP). This program pairs a younger junior member with an older member to allow the younger member to become more familiar with the show and for each to have the best possible experience. This is also another opportunity to build a relationship with someone from across the country.

In addition to the busy week's schedule, the NJAA hosts its annual meeting. At this meeting two delegates from each state attend to review the organization's bylaws and elect the "new six" that will serve on the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) on the 2020-2021 team. The new officers and directors will be announced during the closing ceremonies at the end 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**