



► Bidders make one last round through the silent auction before the bidding closes July 13 during the 2002 National Junior Angus Show in Milwaukee, Wis.

# Bidding Wars

Silent auction goes “Under the Big Top” for high prices.

Story and photos by Kendra Kelton

**A**nticipation, excitement, eagerness and a competitive spirit lingered in the air during the final two minutes of bidding. Anxious bidders flocked to tables layered with items up for bid at the 2002 Angus Foundation Silent Auction held in conjunction with the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

The auction kicked off July 10 and closed July 13, allowing people to scout out their treasures for four days. The silent auction is always located near the hospitality area, so it is accessible to those who want to drop by and up their bids.



► Susan Rhode (bottom right), Silent Auction coordinator, and Jerry Cassady (top right), American Angus Association regional manager, distribute items to buyers and collect payments.

## Foundation support

The annual event was introduced at the 1995 NJAS in Louisville, Ky. Since that time, it has become one of the most anticipated events of the week.

The proceeds from the auction go to the Angus Foundation, which was established in 1981 as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization to support Angus youth, education and research. The Foundation supports the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors with travel expenses, various activities and the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference.

## States donate

Each state is encouraged to bring at least one or two items to donate to the silent auction. On average, the auction generates \$4,000-\$5,000 each year for the Angus Foundation. This year, the auction raised more than \$5,200.

The silent auction is truly unique. It offers a variety of Angus collectibles, memorabilia and numerous other items. One can always find something that will be treasured forever. Every year brings new and different items. Everyone has his or her own favorite.

“Handmade items are the most unique,” says Susan Rhode, director of communications for the American Angus Association and coordinator of the event. “They show how many talented people are involved in the Angus industry.”

This year, 61 items were up for bid from 21 state donors. Donations for the auction are not limited to state associations; anyone is welcome to donate. Among the items this year were Angus collectibles; handmade pillows; Angus postage stamp sets; Oster® clippers; jewelry; a semen package; and two

CONTINUED ON PAGE 278

## Bidding Wars CONTINUED FROM PAGE 277

frames made of barn wood from Woodlawn Angus Farm, Creston, Ill., one of the oldest Angus herds in America.

"I love to see the different items states donate and the creativity that is behind them," Rhode says. "Watching the items come in and seeing how they come together for a great offering is amazing."

### Top seller

For the second year in a row, the Michigan Junior Angus Association donated the top-selling item. The original black-and-white sketch, titled "The Babysitter," featured a cow in the pasture, surrounded by many calves and was one of 850 made. Rebecca Henderson, East Troy, Wis., purchased the picture for \$325.

"I really liked the print," Henderson says. "Since I have two small children, I was not able to help the Wisconsin juniors as much, and this was one way I could show my support."

The Michigan Junior Angus Association will receive \$100 from the Angus Foundation to recognize their donation of the highest-selling item.

"As a breeder who comes and goes to shows, it is nice to see things in an auction that cannot be found in other locations," says Kris Boehmer, Michigan Junior Angus Association advisor.

The Montana Angus Association also donated one of the top-selling items, a package for two to attend the Montana Angus Tour. Robert Bruner, Huntsville, Texas, purchased the package for \$275.

"I did not attend the show, but I had a friend do the bidding for me," Bruner says. "This is an easy and good way to support the juniors."

Also, the silent auction is a great way for everyone to participate in the NJAS. All the states and individuals have the opportunity to donate items of their choice. The Louisiana Junior Angus Association (LJAA) has participated in the silent auction since its beginning, says Jennifer Ourso, Donaldsonville, La. Every year a family volunteers to donate a basket of Louisiana products as a silent auction item, she says. The basket showcases Louisiana cooking products and gives people a taste of Cajun cooking.

"The silent auction is a good idea," says Ourso, LJAA president. "It allows all states to participate in a fund-raiser."

The Angus Foundation Silent Auction has grown since its inception in 1995. There has been more participation from states and breeders, and the donations from individuals have also increased, Rhode says.

"It is interesting to see what items people fall in love with through the week," she adds. "I have seen some heated arguments over some items. The bidding turns into a game of will and determination."



► "The Babysitter" framed print was donated by the Michigan Junior Angus Association and was the top-selling item in the silent auction.

## 2002 Angus Foundation Silent Auction Donors

Alabama Junior Angus Ass'n  
American Angus Ass'n, Missouri  
Arkansas Junior Angus Ass'n  
Kim Herd, Missouri

Illinois Junior Angus Ass'n  
Indiana Junior Angus Ass'n  
Iowa Junior Angus Ass'n  
Kansas Junior Angus Ass'n  
Kelm Angus, Texas  
Kentucky Junior Angus Ass'n  
Louisiana Junior Angus Ass'n  
Maryland Junior Angus Ass'n  
Michigan Junior Angus Ass'n  
Missouri Junior Angus Ass'n  
Montana Angus Ass'n  
Nebraska Junior Angus Ass'n  
North Dakota Junior Angus Ass'n  
Ohio Junior Angus Ass'n  
Oster Professional Products  
Rush Construction LLC, Missouri  
Tennessee Junior Angus Ass'n  
Texas Junior Angus Ass'n  
Triple B Angus, Illinois  
Vernon, Scott, California  
Virginia Junior Angus Ass'n  
West Virginia Junior Angus Ass'n  
Wisconsin Junior Angus Ass'n

## 2002 Angus Foundation Silent Auction Buyers

Stephanie Arp, Iowa  
Cheryl Barker, Iowa  
Robin Bordner, Michigan  
Robert Bruner, Texas  
Cindy Bussmus, South Dakota  
Christine Catton, Illinois  
Alisa Csukardi, Wisconsin  
Susan Epperly, Virginia  
James Fisher, Missouri  
Sandy Frank, Maryland  
Steve & Julie French, Michigan  
Beth Gillig, Missouri  
Mike Haag, Indiana  
Emily Hartzell, Wisconsin

Rebecca Henderson, Wisconsin  
Seth Henry, Missouri  
Curt Houk, Iowa  
Marty Hultman, Illinois  
Gigi Hunter, Missouri  
Kim Jentz, Wisconsin  
Jeremiah Johnson, Illinois  
Walter Johnson, Illinois  
Monica Jordan, Missouri  
Mary Lou King, Ohio  
Diane Lancaster, West Virginia  
Tracey Leeper, Indiana  
Tina Lemenager, Illinois  
David Mast, Illinois  
Kathy Miller, Wisconsin  
Matt Purfeerst, Minnesota  
Ardel Quam, Wisconsin  
Susan Rhode, Missouri  
Amber Roussel, Louisiana  
Jim Sammons, Iowa  
Zachary Sanders, Missouri  
Anne Patton Schubert, Kentucky  
Pam Smith, Kentucky  
Pat Sullivan, Iowa  
Judith Swanson, Iowa  
Judy Swanson, Iowa  
Kim Swearingin, Kansas  
Nancy Thelen, Michigan  
Russell Uselton, Oklahoma  
Patti Vaassen, Michigan  
Sharon Vaassen, Michigan  
Ashley Wagner, Nebraska  
Tony Weber, Wisconsin  
Glenda Womack, Kentucky  
Roger Worthington, Illinois  
Ginger Woycik, Virginia



► This junior is excited that she got the handmade Angus welcome sign in the silent auction.