

Evaluating Carcass Quality at the NJAS

Junior members learn about the industry's true end product through the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) carcass contest.

by Amber Wahlgren, Angus Communications

Understanding how Angus cattle perform beyond the farm or ranch is an important component of the carcass steer contest hosted during the NJAS. Forty-two steers were a

part of the 2018 NJAS carcass steer contest, where juniors were able to learn firsthand what animals compete well on the rail.

At the NJAS, many animals were

checked in, exhibited and placed. The carcass steer contest is unique to the NJAS due to the fact that exhibitors don't exactly "show" these steers; they send them off



Steers are tagged and weighed in the chute before being loaded onto the trailer.

2018 NJAS Carcass Contest Results

Rank	Name	State Group	Entry #	Live wt. (lb.)	Dressing %	HCW (lb.)	Fat (in.)	REA (sq. in.)	Marb score (400 = Small ⁰⁰)	QG	YG
1	Allissa Martin		15	1,235	66.9%	826.8	0.55	15.1	730	Pr-	2.5
2	Alexis Vandeberghe	ND 1	11	1,255	65.2%	817.8	0.50	14.8	750	Pr-	2.5
3	Alexis Koelling		20	1,265	63.4%	802.4	0.30	13.4	710	Pr-	2.3
4	Suter Clark	VA	46	1,385	63.8%	884.2	0.75	14.9	710	Pr-	3.3
5	Chase Mogck	SD	37	1,330	64.1%	852.4	0.55	13.5	830	Pr ⁰	3.1
6	Kennady Anderson		18	1,385	65.6%	908.2	0.65	14.1	730	Pr-	3.3
7	Reagan Skow	NE	39	1,285	62.2%	799.0	0.30	12.2	750	Pr-	2.7
8	Ty Mogck	SD	25	1,250	66.2%	827.4	0.60	12.9	720	Pr-	3.4
9	Jacob Krusemark	WI	32	1,310	62.9%	824.6	0.50	12.6	820	Pr ⁰	3.2
10	Aubrey Herbers	VA	33	1,285	61.5%	790.6	0.45	13.9	730	Pr-	2.4

for harvest, evaluation and grading following check-in. Within a matter of days, the carcass merit of these steers is reported. The top steers were announced at the NJAS awards ceremony July 12.

“The NJAS has an incredible learning opportunity for junior members that participate in the carcass contest,” says Jaclyn Upperman, American Angus Association director of events and education. “Junior members feed and manage the steers in an attempt to grade the highest-quality carcass they can.”

Numbers were up this year, reports Upperman, referring to both number of entries and steer performance. Of the 42 entries, 38% graded Prime and 80% qualified for *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB).

“This is the best set of carcass steers harvested to date,” she reports of the entries representing 13 states. This contest shows the versatility of Angus cattle and how they can be beneficial to any producer.

The top steers’ exhibitors were awarded contest premiums in addition to carcass premiums. Along

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Top 10 honors were given to (from left) Aubrey Herbers, Lynchburg, Va., 10th; Jacob Krusemark, Burlington, Wis., ninth; Ty Mogck, Olivet, S.D., eighth; Kennady Anderson, Kewanee, Ill., sixth; Chase Mogck, Olivet, S.D., fifth; and Suter Clark, Gretna, Va., fourth. Not pictured are Reagan Skow, Palisade, Neb., seventh; and Alexis Koelling, Curryville, Mo., third.

2018 NJAS Carcass Contest state group results

Rank	Team	Name	Entry #	Prem. (\$/hd.)	State Avg.
1	VA	Aubrey Herbers	33	\$221.37	
1	VA	J. Gordon Clark	41	\$192.90	
1	VA	Suter Clark	46	\$238.73	\$217.67
2	SD	Ty Mogck	25	\$223.40	
2	SD	Ty Mogck	36	\$160.34	
2	SD	Chase Mogck	37	\$230.15	\$204.63

CAB®	Grid prem. (\$/cwt.)	Carcass prem. (\$/hd.)
Yes	\$30.00	\$248.04
Yes	\$30.00	\$245.34
Yes	\$30.00	\$240.72
Yes	\$27.00	\$238.73
Yes	\$27.00	\$230.15
Yes	\$25.00	\$227.05
Yes	\$28.00	\$223.72
Yes	\$27.00	\$223.40
Yes	\$27.00	\$222.64
Yes	\$28.00	\$220.05



Bird's-eye view from the chute as this steer prepares to load into the trailer.

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with the prize money, contestants received carcass data back to influence future selection decisions.

Carcass steer champions

The grand champion carcass steer was exhibited by Allissa Martin, Oregon, Ill., and sired by PVF Insight 0129. Martin's steer graded low-Prime with a yield grade of 2.5. The

steer had a 15.1-square-inch (sq. in.) ribeye area and a hot-carcass weight of 826.8 pounds (lb.), meeting the CAB requirements. Martin received a \$30-per-hundredweight (cwt.) grid premium.

Alexis Vandenberghe, Cleveland, N.D., was awarded reserve grand champion carcass steer with a calf sired by Flying V Unanimous 66B.


Her steer graded low-Prime with a yield grade of 2.5. The steer had a ribeye area of 14.8 sq. in. and a hot-carcass weight of 817.8 lb. Her steer also qualified for CAB, and Vandenberghe was awarded \$30-per-cwt. grid premium.

The grand champion bred-and-owned (B&O) carcass was sired by KG Justified 3023 and owned by Reagan Skow, Palisade, Neb. Her steer graded low-Prime with a yield grade of 2.7. Her steer had a ribeye area of 12.2 sq. in. and a hot-carcass weight of 799.0 lb. The steer also qualified for CAB, and Skow was awarded \$28-per-cwt. grid premium.

Aubrey Herbers, Lynchburg, Va., was awarded reserve grand champion B&O carcass steer with progeny of GAR Oracle. Her steer graded low-Prime with a yield grade of 2.4. He had a ribeye area of 13.9 sq. in. and a hot-carcass weight of 790.6 lb. Her steer qualified for CAB, and Herbers was awarded \$28-per-cwt. grid premium.

State group was another division of the contest. Three steers were grouped together by no less than two exhibitors. Continuing their victory, Virginia won the first-place state group. The Virginia team was composed of Aubrey Herbers, Gordon Clark and Suter Clark, both of Gretna.

Winning second in the state group division was South Dakota. This team consisted of Ty and Chase Mogck, both of Olivet.

Additional NJAS contest placings, awards and scholarships can be found on www.angus.org. Coverage is also available on the NJAA Facebook page, including videos, show results and photos. Backdrop and candid photos are available for purchase online. 



Virginia juniors won champion state carcass group. Pictured are (from left) Gordon Clark, Aubrey Herbers and Suter Clark



South Dakota juniors won reserve champion state carcass group. Pictured are (from left) Chase Mogck and Ty Mogck.



For the owned division, Allissa Martin (right) won grand champion and Alexis Vandenberghe (left) won reserve grand champion. Also pictured is Dr. Curtis Long (center) of Briarwood Farms, who presented the awards.



In the bred-and-owned division, Reagan Skow won grand champion carcass steer.