

# Beyond the Show Ring

*National Junior Angus Association youth selected for second annual Stockman Award.*

*by Laura Bardot, Angus Communications*

For the second year in a row, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) selected three individuals to take home the top honors of the Stockman Award during the 50th National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

This year's recipients are Lauren Wolter, Aviston, Ill., junior division; Ellie Kidwell, Walhonding, Ohio, intermediate division; and Jayne Bannister, Kent, N.Y., senior division.

To be eligible for the award, juniors must have competed in the cattle judging, quiz bowl, written exam and skill-a-thon contests while at NJAS. The total score of the contests were combined to select the winners. The top individuals were selected based on age division.

Bannister won the Stockman Award two years in a row and says it is an honor to receive it again. She credits her success to showcasing her talents outside the show ring.

"For me, it isn't just about earning

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this award, though it is a great perk," Bannister says. "I would participate in these contests to stretch my knowledge, regardless. Understanding the industry and having basic cattle knowledge is imperative to being a successful cattleman."

The Stockman Award is geared towards helping youth, at all age levels, to expand their knowledge in all aspects of the cattle industry.

"When I first arrived at the NJAS, I

didn't think I would win the award," Wolter says. "It wasn't until I did well in the judging and quiz bowl contests that I really considered the possibility of winning it."

Bannister thanks the National Junior Angus Board of Directors and Dave Nichols for making the award possible. Nichols and Nichols Farms sponsored the Stockman Awards again this year.

She says participating in the contest is a great experience and encourages all juniors to try it at least once in their career. Wolter also adds juniors should not be afraid of trying new contests.

"I would advise other juniors to just try the different contests," Wolter says. "You'll learn something just from trying it. You might not win the award or contest at first, but the key is to just keep trying." 🏆



*Winning top honors in the Stockman Award contest at the 2018 NJAS are (from left) Jayne Bannister, Kent, N.Y., senior champion; Ellie Kidwell, Walhonding, Ohio, intermediate champion; Lauren Wolter, Aviston, Ill., junior champion. Also pictured is Dave Nichols, sponsor of the award, presenting.*