

# CATTLE CULTURE

by Lindsay King, assistant editor

## Show Culture

*A cattle show presents the unique opportunity for Angus juniors to get creative when biding their time between classes and contests. It's the culture and comradery that keep people coming back time and time again.*

It's the place where strangers become friends and forge lifelong relationships around a common interest. Friendships are built as giant Jenga® spills to the floor and cornhole points are disputed.

When Angus juniors aren't in the showring or a contest room, they are usually walking, washing, brushing, feeding or watering their animals. It's true that this takes an abundant amount of time, but eventually the chore list runs out.

"Of course, we always spend a lot of time with our cattle, but at national shows I like to catch up with

my friends from other states," says Kaitlyn Wilkins from Florida.

### Fun and games

The easiest game to stuff into a packed trailer is a deck of cards. A variety of card games get dealt out at cattle shows. Cards Against Humanity and poker were among the top activities of the 2019 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) hosted in Louisville, Ky., this past July.

"We actually travel with some

family friends and even though we are from the same place, we don't get to spend a lot of time together," Wilkins says. "Going to cattle shows is basically like our vacation, so just spending time together is enjoyable."

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One Angus enthusiast used the soggy wood chips left in the aisles to set up a miniature farming operation. It was complete with cattle and ranch trucks.

Lane King from Indiana traditionally plays hide-and-seek with his friends. It's on a much bigger scale than most games of this nature.

"We play it like normal except that



we use the entire building,” King says.

In Louisville, this included the stalls, a make-up arena, the show arena, trade show venue and a few extra rooms sprinkled on the side. King says it is an epic way to keep himself and his friends busy during their downtime.

## Cattle business

Off time at a cattle show isn't all fun and games though. One Angus junior was spotted sharing a set of clippers with his heifer as he got his own haircut.

“I am doing a lot of homework right now too,” Wilkins says. “I am in two online classes this summer.” She is going into her senior year at Millikin University in Decatur, Ill.

Wilkins isn't the only one at NJAS getting down to business. Cattlemen leaned against their blowers, engaged in a meeting of the minds.

It's the place where innovation and collaboration collide. Perhaps some of the best Angus ideas came from the stall aisles at junior shows of days gone by.

Easily the most prevalent occupancy of time at a cattle show is a well-deserved nap.

“I like to snuggle up with my heifer when she is laying down because it is cool in front of the fan,” Wilkins says. “She tucks her head next to mine. I have fallen asleep there many times.”

King likes to make sure his nap spot is a bit more secluded.

“The walk space between the aisles for storage has hay bales,” he says. “So I will take two quilts in there and use one to lay on and one to cover up.”

Show culture is in a realm of its own. It's created by the people and upheld by tradition. 

