

JUNIOR SHOWS

A lot of kids show a lot of cattle. This year the National Junior Angus Heifer Show attracted 312 exhibitors from 29 states showing 466 heifers. The National Showmanship Contest, held at the same time, drew 72 youths from 38 states.

National junior show entries have increased 244% in the event's 11-year history, and it is now one of the largest Angus shows in the country. In July 1969, the first one of its kind was held during the annual American Angus Conference at Columbia, Mo. According to Dean Hurlbut, director of activities for the American Angus Assn., who was then heading up junior activities, there were 191 entries.

The National Showmanship Contest had begun two years earlier and for several years was a feature of the futurity that was being held in Lexington, Ky. It was not until 1974 that these two major junior events were combined.

Beginning with the first National, junior participation in Angus Herd Improvement Records has been encouraged, with additional premiums going to entries enrolled in the association-sponsored performance program.

For several years, trophies and prize money were awarded to the top bred-and-owned females, but it wasn't until 1976 that a separate bred-and-owned division was established. (To qualify for entry in that division, the exhibiting youngster must not only own the heifer, but he or she must also be the recorded breeder.)

The National show has been held in July with one exception—in 1973 it was changed to October so it could be part of the World Angus Forum held in Kansas City, Mo.

Since the National show was generally located in the country's mid-section, a need for regional shows was recognized, and two were established to accommodate junior exhibitors on either coast.

In 1972, the Western Regional Junior Angus Heifer Show was introduced in conjunction with the Western National Angus Futurity in Reno, Nev. This junior show has been a feature of the Western National every year since then, growing from 31 entries the first year to 78 this past spring.

The Eastern Regional Junior Angus Heifer Show began in 1973. Traditionally held in July prior to the National show, this event draws entries not only from the east but from many midwestern states as well. Unlike the western junior show, the Eastern Regional moves to a different location each year. This year in York, Pa., the show drew 203 entries.

In 1979, the National Junior Angus Heifer Show and the two regional junior shows had combined entries of 747 heifers. Exhibitor numbers in the three shows added up to just more than 500. There were some duplications, with some juniors participating in more than one show—but that's still a lot of kids showing a lot of cattle.

