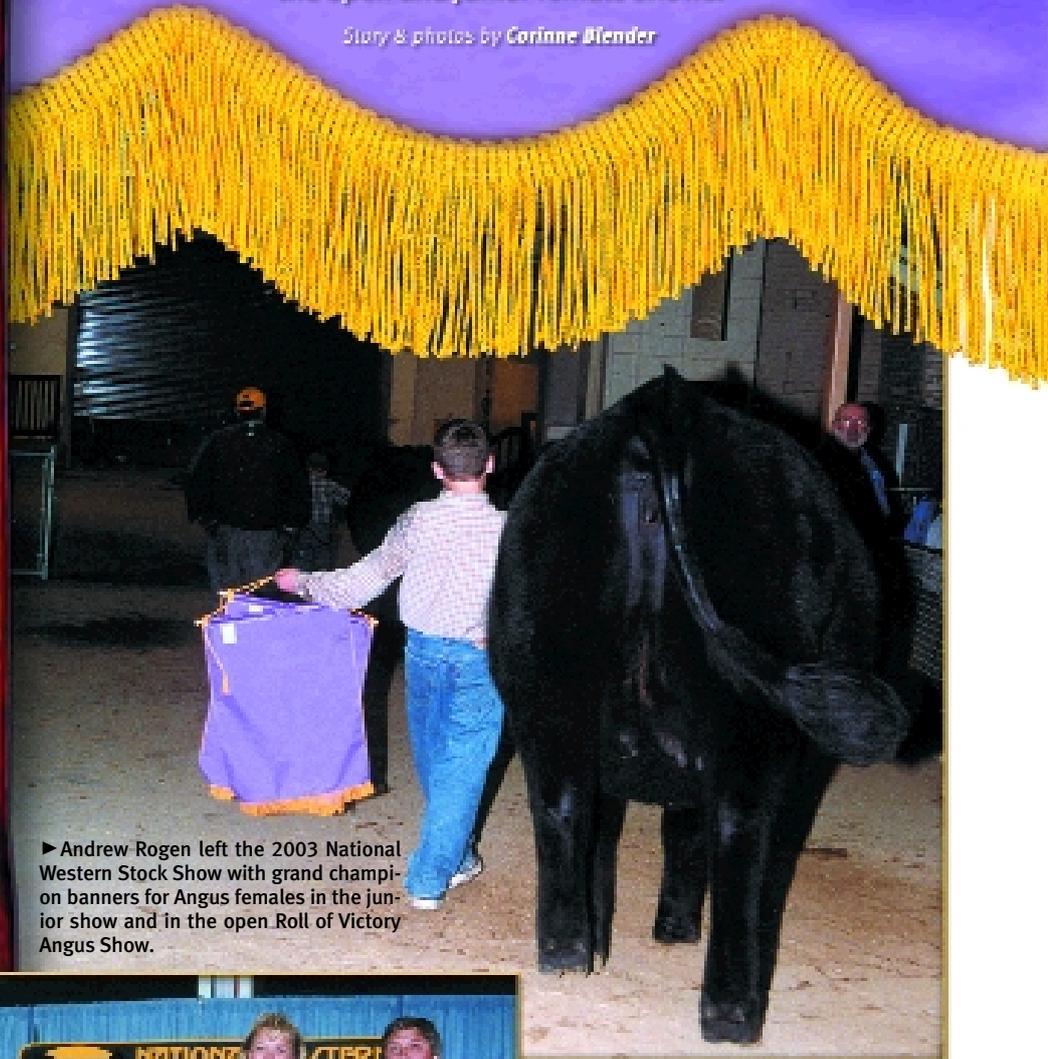




# Purple Pride

A junior Angus member leaves the NWSS with a smile stretching from ear to ear and purple ribbons dangling at his side as he sweeps the open and junior female shows.

Story & photos by Corinne Blender



► Andrew Rogen left the 2003 National Western Stock Show with grand champion banners for Angus females in the junior show and in the open Roll of Victory Angus Show.



► The Rogen family proudly displays the heifers that claimed top honors with the purple banners they won in the female divisions of the NWSS. Family members are (from left) Alex, Andrew, Shally and Dick.

**A**fter a long two days of early mornings at the washrack and anxiously anticipating his heifer classes being called, Andrew Rogen, Brandon, S.D., left the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) Complex proudly dangling two big purple grand champion female banners.

Andrew's feat is a unique mark in recent years at the NWSS. As a junior Angus member, he won both the junior heifer show and the open female show — with two different heifers.

"It feels great. I hope I never come down from this point. Right now we kind of feel like we should sell out and get out at the top," Andrew says, laughing.

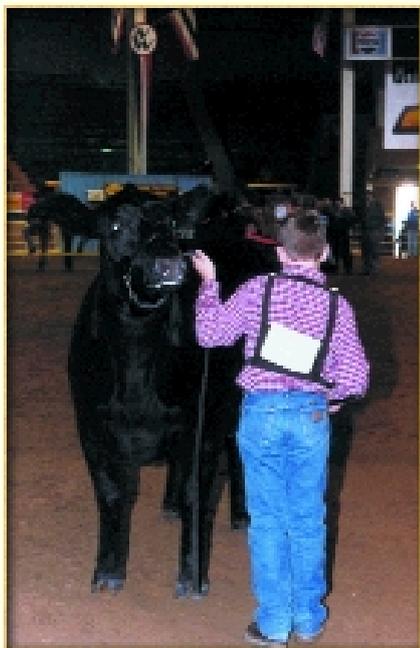
He has been showing for four years in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA),



► “Princess” (right) and “Wendy” (left) helped Andrew win two grand champion banners. He says both heifers are really nice, and he is looking forward to when they calve in March and April.



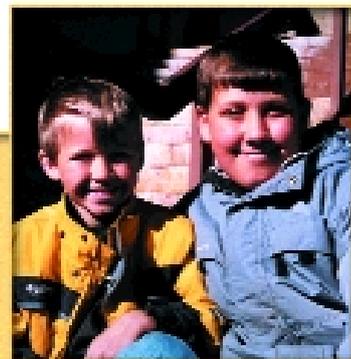
► Joel Judge, San Luis Obispo, Calif., congratulates Andrew as his heifer, Roth Wendy 1917, wins the NWSS Junior Angus Female Show. Judge evaluated the 63 entries exhibited Jan. 14.



► Andrew scratches his heifer while in the showing at the 97th Annual NWSS. Andrew says he learned how to fit and show from several people whom he has purchased heifers from during his four-year career in the National Junior Angus Association.



► Andrew was all smiles after he won grand champion heifer back to back at the NWSS. Friends and family swarmed to congratulate him after the show.



### Brothers share passion for Angus

Andrew (right) and Alex Rogen, Brandon, S.D., are involved in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) for more reasons than just to win purple banners. They are investing in their Angus herd to save money for college.

Andrew still has time to think about what he wants to pursue while in college — he is only 13. Right now he is considering animal science. He says he expects his 30-head cow herd to continue to grow. The profit he makes will be placed in his college fund.

At 8 years of age, Alex is still too young to show at NJAA events, but he looks forward to next year when he is eligible, he says. The brothers spend a lot of time together with their cattle and equally share their love for Angus.

but this is the first time he has shown in the junior division at the NWSS. This 13-year-old may have a youthful smile, but he's serious when it comes to taking care of his heifers.

“My heifers are really nice, and I know that I couldn't have done it all without my family helping me,” he says. “My dad sacrificed by staying at home a lot and working. This is the first show he has really seen me show at that I have won major.”

Andrew first won the NWSS junior Angus heifer show Jan. 14 with Roth Wendy 1917. “Wendy,” as he calls her, is an April 2001 daughter of SVF GDAR 216 LTD. Green's Princess 1012 won grand champion female honors in the Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show Jan. 16. “Princess” is a March

2001 daughter of Green's Premium 7578.

Andrew acknowledges that his heifers come from two fairly different breeding programs, but he says they both come from really good herds. He adds that the help from the breeders he buys from is invaluable to him and part of the reason he is able to attend more than 10 shows each year.

“I'd have to say there're a lot of people who help me out,” Andrew says. “We got our first heifer from Gregg Butman at Cottonwood Angus, and they really helped us out with my first shows. Steve Patton and Dan Kelley from LaGrand Roth help me with how to fit and how to set up a heifer. Larry Green is a really nice guy. He gives me a lot of encouragement and support.”

Andrew's mother, Shally, says both Green

and LaGrand Roth have hauled Andrew's cattle to many shows. Without their help, she says, the family couldn't make it to so many events.

Andrew's family and the Angus friends who are devoted to helping him mean a lot, but he has a lot of love for his heifers, too. “They are both really nice heifers. My Princess heifer has a really heavy head, so I call her ‘Lead Head.’ My other heifer has her own personality. She likes to be scratched, and she likes treats a lot.”

Wendy and Princess are due to calve in March and April. Andrew is looking forward to that, and adds that next year will be a rebuilding year for him. He says, “It will be hard to top this year.”

