



► The last steer is loaded and the back gate is shut as Regional Manager Richard Dyar walks down the ramp. More than 30 juniors participated in the 2003 NJAS carcass steer competition.

Premium Carcasses

Angus juniors win big in NJAS carcass steer contest.

Story & photos by **Garrett Wilkerson**

Hoping to gain a real-world perspective, junior Angus exhibitors from across the country entered steers into the carcass contest at the 2003 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), July 13-19 in Louisville, Ky.

The contest was created in 1985 in an effort to increase awareness of the role Angus cattle play outside the showing.

After being discontinued in 1991, the contest was reinstated in 1993. This year more than 30 contestants took part in the competition.

Prize money is an obvious incentive to participate: \$1,000 is awarded for the first-place carcass steer; \$750 for the second-place winner; \$500 for the third-place winner;

with prize money awarded down to the 10th-place winner, who receives \$100. All cattle that meet the *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) brand carcass requirements receive an additional \$50.

Blake Brockway, Indianola, Iowa, won first place with his 1,160-pound (lb.) steer. His steer had a dressing percentage of 63.45%, a USDA Yield Grade (YG) of 2.00 and a high-Choice quality grade. Brockway's steer qualified for the CAB brand.

Brockway says he plans on using his prize money to help pay his tuition at Iowa State University (ISU), where he is an agribusiness major.

This was the second year that Brockway has entered a carcass steer. He placed 10th in the 2002 carcass contest and credits his success to a combination of genetic performance and feed management practices used to achieve optimum results.

"We've selected cattle with solid carcass traits, and we closely monitor their feed program," Brockway says. He raised his entry, Primetrend 207, a May 2002 son of MGSA New Trend 903.

John Pfeiffer, Mulhall, Okla., was second with his 1,178-lb. steer. The reserve champion carcass had a carcass weight of 723 lb., giving it a 61.38% dressing percentage. Pfeiffer's steer produced a YG 2.24, low-Prime carcass that qualified for CAB Prime. This year's performance was impressive, considering he won first place in last year's contest.

"We've been breeding for carcass quality for a long time," Pfeiffer says. "We look at what the packers want. Understanding the sire summary has also been key to our program."

Pfeiffer says he plans to put his award money back into his cattle projects. "I've learned how to feed cattle and work with the different rations," he says, admitting that, "The carcass steers do get fed better than the feeder calves."

The McCabe family of Kim-Mac Farms, Elk City, Kan., continued their solid performance in the carcass contest. Five of their six entries made the top 10 in this year's contest.

This success carried over to help the McCabe's home state in the state carcass group competition. Teams from Kansas claimed both first and second place, with the first-place team comprised of steers entered by Flinton, Ethan and Hannah McCabe.

Table 1: Top 10 placings in the 2003 NJAS carcass contest

Rank	Exhibitor	Entry	Wt., lb.	HCW, lb.	Dress, %	FT, in.	REA, sq. in.	KPH, %	QG	YG	CAB®	Index	Group
1	Blake Brockway	6	1,160	736	63.45	0.30	13.9	2.0	CH+	2.00	Y	110.34	IA
2	John Pfeiffer	19	1,178	723	61.38	0.30	13.0	2.0	PR-	2.24	Pr	108.62	
3	Ethan McCabe	33	1,212	782	64.52	0.40	15.2	2.0	CH°	2.01	Y	107.08	KS1
4	Hannah McCabe	38	1,124	709	63.08	0.35	13.6	2.0	CH°	2.12	Y	106.46	KS1
5	Lacey Robinson	18	1,176	753	64.03	0.30	13.1	2.5	CH+	2.42	Y	104.32	MO
6	Flinton McCabe	27	1,138	733	64.41	0.30	13.0	2.0	CH°	2.28	Y	103.02	KS5
7	Flinton McCabe	37	1,200	775	64.58	0.40	13.4	2.0	CH+	2.56	Y	101.50	KS1
8	Kelsey Erichsen	14	1,164	711	61.08	0.35	13.3	1.5	CH-	2.12		100.84	KS4
9	Ethan McCabe	36	1,224	790	64.54	0.30	13.1	2.0	CH°	2.46	Y	100.10	KS5
10	James Pfeiffer	35	1,126	685	60.83	0.40	12.4	2.0	CH°	2.54	Y	98.59	OK



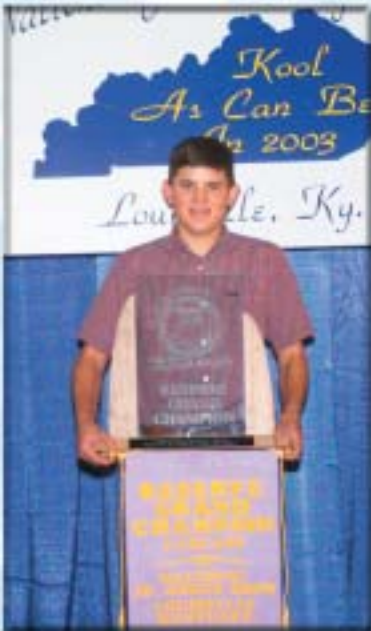
► Junior Angus members from Kansas won first and second place in the state carcass group competition. From left, Darin Wiley, Saint Francis, and Flinton McCabe, Elk City, received the honors on behalf of the two groups.

Table 2: Group winners

Rank	Group
1	Kansas 1
2	Kansas 2
3	Oklahoma
4	Missouri
5	Iowa
6	Kansas 3
7	Kansas 4
8	Illinois
9	Kansas 5



► John Pfeiffer, Mulhall, Okla., walks his steer onto the truck after opening ceremonies Tuesday night. After the animals are harvested, the information is compiled to select a grand champion carcass.



► John Pfeiffer had the reserve champion carcass steer at the 2003 NJAS. His 1,178-lb. entry graded low-Prime and qualified for CAB® Prime.

