

The Showmen's Showcase

Angus juniors represent their states in the 2003 NJAS Showmanship Contest.

by *Shelia Stannard*

Seth Buckley, White Post, Va., claimed the title of "Top Showman" during the 37th National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, July 18-19 in Louisville, Ky. Fifty-seven contestants from 31 states competed for the honor during the contest, which was held in conjunction with the 2003 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

After making the top 15 and showing again in the final round, Buckley earned the title as well as \$350 from the Hamilton James Memorial Fund, a silver Revere bowl and the Dean Hurlbut Award. The Jake White family also presented Buckley with a handcrafted trophy buckle in his honor.

Kristopher Lynn, Springfield, Ky., claimed second-place honors and \$250. Cortney Hill-Dukehart, Sykesville, Md., placed third. She received \$175.

Rebecca Nida, Red Rock, Okla., placed fourth and won \$125. Curtis Bryant, Monkton, Md., rounded out the top five. He received \$100.

Cash prizes awarded to the top five showmen are provided by the Hamilton James Memorial Fund, established in memory of Angus enthusiast and auctioneer Ham James. The American Angus Auxiliary presented each of the top five contestants with a silver Revere bowl.

Cream of the crop

The showmanship contestants must qualify at the state level before they can advance to the national competition. Only two contestants per state are allowed to compete, and a person can only compete once. The young exhibitors are evaluated on their skill at handling the animal, ability to follow instructions, use of equipment, courtesy, sportsmanship and general appearance. The contestants do not show their own animals; they draw for animals owned by other exhibitors at the show.

Judges for the event included Jeff Dameron, Brownsburg, Ind.; Scott Foster, Niles, Mich.; and Jane Satree, Montague, Texas.

Four rounds of preliminaries were held before 15 finalists were named. The finalists competed in a final round for top honors. These individuals received a set of clippers from Oster® Professional Products.

Others who round out the top 15 include Renée Deatsman, Leesburg, Ind.; Megan



PHOTOS BY CARA BIEROTH

► **Above:** A good showman knows that keeping an eye on the judge, even while setting up the animal, is crucial to good showmanship.



► **Left:** Junior members take time to acquaint themselves with their designated animals before the competition.

► **Below:** Judges carefully consider each showman before making the final decision. Judges for the event included (from left) Jeff Dameron, Brownsburg, Ind.; Jane Satree, Montague, Texas; and Scott Foster, Niles, Mich.

Gravois, Vacherie, La.; Casey Jentz, Fennimore, Wis.; Hope Herd, Fair Grove, Mo.; Jason Schroeder, Clarence, Iowa; Heath Cameron, King Hill, Idaho; Jarrett Martin, Lavaca, Ark.; Dallas Felton, Decherd, Tenn.; Jeana Sankey, Council Grove, Kan.; and Eric King, Tiffin, Ohio.

For photos of the winners, see "2003 NJAS Award Winners" on page 162.

