

Show-Offs

Fifty NJAA members compete for top showman honors.

by *Shelia Stannard*



► **Above:** Cody Washam, Pierce City, Mo., leads the 50 contestants into the ring for the naming of the top 15 showmen.

► **Right:** Dean Hurlbut (left), Saint Joseph, Mo., former American Angus Association director of activities, presents **Blake Bloomberg**, Berwick, Ill., a silver Revere bowl in recognition of his first-place showmanship honor.



CANDID PHOTOS BY ALAINE BURT

Blake Bloomberg, Berwick, Ill., claimed the title of top showman in the 38th Annual National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest July 16-17 at the 2004 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Kansas City, Mo. A total of 50 contestants from 28 states competed in the contest, sponsored in part by the American Angus Auxiliary and Oster® Professional Products.

After being named one of 15 finalists and showing in the final round of competition, Bloomberg earned the championship, which included a monetary prize from the Hamilton James Memorial Fund and a silver Revere bowl, the Dean Hurlbut Award. The Jake White family also presented

Bloomberg with a hand-crafted trophy buckle.

Chelsea Frost, Tallula, Ill., claimed second-place honors; Kelly Penner, Mill Creek, Okla., won third place; Emily Pohlman, Norfolk, Neb., won fourth place; and Megan Kalb, Sycamore, Ohio, rounded out the top, claiming fifth.

Each of the top five received cash prizes on behalf of the Hamilton James Memorial Fund, established in memory of Angus enthusiast and auctioneer Ham James. The American



► Finalists in the 2004 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest are (front row, from left) **Emily Pohlman**, Norfolk, Neb., fourth; **Bobbie Kerlake**, Bend, Ore.; **Katy Kemp**, Decatur, Texas; **Jennifer Ourso**, Donaldsonville, La.; **Crystal Palmer**, Ripley, Miss.; **Megan Kalb**, Sycamore, Ohio, fifth; **Anna Taylor**, Adel, Ga.; (back row, from left) **Blake Bloomberg**, Berwick, Ill., first; **Dylan Evans**, Lebo, Kan.; **Kelly Penner**, Mill Creek, Okla., third; **Casey Bruns**, Union City, Ind.; **Casey Blew**, Mount Hope, Kan.; **Chelsea Frost**, Tallula, Ill., second; **Justin Brosey**, Hamilton, Ohio; and **Patrick Smith**, Purcellville, Va.

Angus Auxiliary presented each of the top five showmen with a silver Revere bowl.

Successful showdown

Showmanship contestants must first qualify at the state level before they can advance to the national competition. Only two junior members per state can compete each year. Once a showman has competed, he or she is not eligible for the national showmanship contest again. The exhibitors are evaluated on their skill in handling the animal, ability to follow instructions, use of equipment, courtesy, sportsmanship and general appearance. The contestants do not show their own animals; instead, they are randomly assigned animals owned by other exhibitors.

Judges for this year's event included Alan Miller, Le Roy, Ill.; Robert Alden, Hamilton, Mo.; and Sharee Sankey, Council Grove, Kan. Brian Brockman, Brookfield, Mo., was the surrogate judge.

The contestants competed in four preliminary rounds before the 15 finalists were named. Each of the finalists was awarded a set of clippers from Oster Professional Products.

Other showmen rounding out the top 15 include Bobbie Kerslake, Bend, Ore.; Katy Kemp, Decatur, Texas; Jennifer Ourso, Donaldsonville, La.; Crystal Palmer, Ripley, Miss.; Anna Taylor, Adel, Ga.; Dylan Evans, Lebo, Kan.; Casey Bruns, Union City, Ind.; Casey Blew, Mount Hope, Kan.; Justin Brosey, Hamilton, Ohio; and Patrick Smith, Purcellville, Va.



► **Above:** Regional Manager Chuck Grove instructs a group of showmen before they compete in a preliminary round of the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. Contestants use animals from other juniors in the showmanship contest.



► **Judges compare notes before selecting their top showmen of the class.** Judges of the 2004 contest are (from left) Sharee Sankey, Council Grove, Kan.; Alan Miller, Le Roy, Ill.; and Robert Alden, Hamilton, Mo.

► **Below:** Showmen keep their eyes on the judge, setting up their animals in the final showdown of the contest.



► **Receiving honorable mention at the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest are (from left) Scott Heil, Berrien Center, Mich.; Kori Conley, Clarksdale, Mo.; Kati Hereford, Hamilton, Va.; Jennifer Hower, Bethlehem, Pa.; and Kelli Armbruster, Burlington, Okla.**

