

Speaking Up

Juniors speak up for the cattle industry in public speaking contest.

by Crystal Albers



► Winning the junior division of prepared public speaking are (from left) **Sarah Connolly**, Rogers, Ark., first; **Bailey Harsh**, Radnor, Ohio, second; and **Taylor McQueen**, Gilmer, Texas, third. "It's time to put our cards on the table and see how we stack the deck against ourselves, how to deal a full house of nutrition, to call the bluff on fat, and up the ante with *Certified Angus Beef®*," said Connolly in her winning speech.



► Winning the intermediate division of prepared public speaking are (from left) **Christina Egner**, Shelby, Ohio, first; **Kara Wilson**, Orleans, Ind., second; and **Jessica Weigand**, Warrensburg, Mo., third. "It is time for commercial cattlemen to cash in on what they have been working on for years — their Angus-sired cattle," said Egner in her winning speech.



► Winning the senior division of prepared public speaking are (from left) **Alex Tolbert**, Nicholson, Ga., first; **Wravenna Phipps**, Kearney, Neb., second; and **Emily McCurry**, Burrton, Kan., third. "It is easy to say that today is a great day to be in the cattle business," said Tolbert in his winning speech. "However, as producers, we need not become complacent."



► Winning the junior division of extemporaneous speaking are (from left) **Parker Rayl**, Hutchinson, Kan., first; **Bailey Harsh**, Radnor, Ohio, second; and **Allison Jones**, Manhattan, Kan., third.

A record-breaking 71 juniors participated in the prepared public speaking contest July 15 at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Kansas City, Mo.

The contest was first initiated in an effort to better equip juniors with the communication skills required to succeed in the cattle industry. Juniors prepare speeches in advance and are judged on content and presentation. The contest consists of three age divisions, including junior, ages 9-13; intermediate, ages 14-17; and senior, ages 18-21. Juniors have 4-6 minutes (min.) to complete their speech, while intermediate and senior speakers are allowed 6-8 min.

Prizes and cash awards are given to top-placing contestants in each division, with first-place winners receiving \$125; second-place winners, \$100; and third-place winners, \$75.

Continuing its tradition, the *Angus Journal* sponsored the senior division of the

public speaking contest. First-, second- and third-place winners were awarded \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 scholarships, respectively. The topic for this year's senior division public speaking contest was, "Explain the beef industry market trends of the past year. Do you believe future market trends will be favorable or unfavorable? Why?"

Junior and intermediate speakers could select any speech topic relating to Angus cattle or the beef industry.

The winning speeches are posted online at www.angusjournal.com/njas.

Extemporaneous speakers awarded buckles

The extemporaneous speaking contest challenges participants' knowledge about industry topics and tests their abilities to think on their feet. Each participant chooses one of three possible topics. Participants then are allotted 30 min. to prepare their speeches, which must be 2-6 min. in length.

To reward juniors for their efforts, the American Angus Auxiliary awards the Richard L. Spader Memorial Belt Buckle to the top senior division participant and the Pat Grote Memorial Belt Buckle to the intermediate division winner.

Competing July 14 at the NJAS, Wravenna Phipps, Kearney, Neb., won the Spader buckle, while Jara Settles, Hoskins, Neb., won the first-ever Grote buckle.

Amy Iman Bellis, Auxiliary president, says the organization wanted to remember Grote, who passed away while serving as Auxiliary president, for her contributions to junior



► The Pat Grote Memorial Belt Buckle was awarded to the top junior placing in the intermediate division of the extemporaneous speaking contest. The American Angus Auxiliary, which donated the award, presented the buckle to Jara Settles, Hoskins, Neb.



► Winning the intermediate division of extemporaneous speaking are (from left) **Jara Settles**, Hoskins, Neb., first and recipient of the Pat Grote Memorial Belt Buckle; **Jessica Weigand**, Warrensburg, Mo., second; and **Courtenay DeHoff**, Tonganoxie, Kan., third.



► Winning the senior division of extemporaneous speaking are (from left) **Wravenna Phipps**, Kearney, Neb., first and recipient of the Richard L. Spader Memorial Belt Buckle; **Landi McFarland**, Ellston, Iowa, second; and **Tracee Veenstra**, Springfield, Minn., third.

members. "Pat Grote was an awesome leader," Bellis says. "She did anything for juniors, and extemporaneous speaking was right down her alley.

"Pat was a very pivotal part of the Auxiliary. When she passed away, it was like losing your leader. Basically, we needed to honor Pat for what she did for the Auxiliary and, more importantly, what she did for all the juniors."

Grote was indeed a woman dedicated to



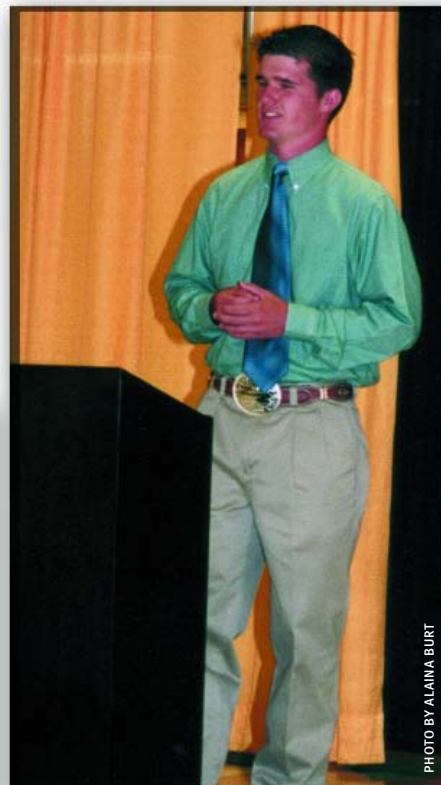
junior members. A junior advisor, she encouraged all youth to get involved in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

"One thing she believed in was educating the kids about beef," her husband, Glen, says. "She also liked to give kids a pat on the back for a job well done."

This award accomplishes just that.



► Megin Santee, Langdon, Kan., speaks about the ups and downs of the cattle market. Santee participated in the senior division of the prepared speaking contest July 15 during the NJAS.



► Alex Tolbert, Nicholson, Ga., competes in the senior division of the prepared speaking contest. Tolbert won first place and a \$1,000 scholarship from the *Angus Journal*.