

Carcass Champs

Juniors win big in the carcass steer contest at the 2004 NJAS.

by *Shelby Axtell*

Angus youth enter steers in the carcass contest each year at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) to gain a real-world perspective of the beef industry. More than 40 contestants entered 52 entries at the 2004 NJAS July 12-17 in Kansas City, Mo.

The contest was started in 1985 in an effort to increase awareness of the role that Angus cattle play outside of the

showring. After being discontinued in 1991, the contest was reinstated in 1993. This year exhibitors were given the added option of first showing their steers in the live evaluation.

“Because of the location of the facilities this year, we were able to let the exhibitors show the cattle on hoof and still get the carcass results back in time for the awards function,” says

James Fisher, director of activities and junior activities at the American Angus Association. “This allowed junior members to have a better understanding of the carcass side by seeing the cattle on hoof first.” In turn, he adds, it brought more reality to the steer show.



Prize money is awarded to first through 10th places. First place receives \$1,000, second \$750, third \$500 and fourth through 10th

receive \$100. All cattle meeting the *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) carcass requirements receive an additional 25% premium.

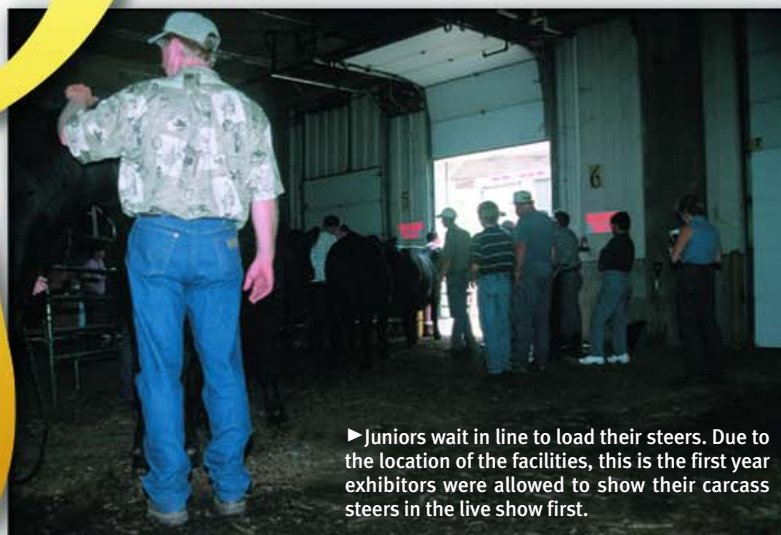
The McCabe family, Elk City, Kan., continued its winning tradition in the carcass contest this year. Five of the McCabes' eight entries placed in the top 10, and their success was carried into the grand champion state group.

“Our carcass steers are selected from the lower end of the bull calves, and we use ultrasound from both the sire and dam,” says Flinton McCabe. “We feed our steers really hard for 70 days and just hope that the genetics will do the rest.”



► Carcass contest participants weigh in their steers for the 2004 NJAS carcass contest. More than 40 contestants entered 52 entries.

PHOTOS BY CORINNE PATTERSON



► Juniors wait in line to load their steers. Due to the location of the facilities, this is the first year exhibitors were allowed to show their carcass steers in the live show first.



► A carcass steer is loaded on Wednesday of the NJAS. The carcass steer contest was started in 1985 to increase awareness among juniors of their steers' roles beyond the showing.

Table 1: Top 15 placings in the 2004 NJAS carcass contest

Rank	Exhibitor	Entry	Wt., lb.	HCW, lb.	Dress, %	FT, in.	REA, sq. in.	KPH, %	QG	YG	CAB®	Index	Group
1	Hannah McCabe	54	1,075	703	65.40	0.25	14.9	2.0	PR ⁻	1.43	Pr	123.32	KS6
2	Ethan McCabe	59	1,170	750	64.10	0.40	14.7	1.5	PR ⁻	1.95	Pr	119.50	KS6
3	Esther McCabe	33	1,160	730	62.93	0.45	14.8	1.5	PR ⁻	1.96	Pr	119.20	KS5
4	James Devore	29	1,215	731	60.16	0.45	14.0	2.5	PR ⁻	2.42	Pr	113.14	
5	James Pfeiffer	46	1,175	743	63.23	0.40	13.6	2.5	PR ⁻	2.47	Pr	112.42	OK1
6	James Pfeiffer	48	1,150	724	62.96	0.40	13.1	2.0	PR ⁻	2.46	Pr	112.06	OK2
7	Alisha Nord	7	1,195	735	61.51	0.45	15.3	2.0	CH ⁰	1.92	Y	110.40	MN1
8	Flinton McCabe	61	1,120	713	63.66	0.20	12.8	1.5	PR ⁻	1.91	Pr	109.22	KS6
9	Flinton McCabe	60	1,000	656	65.60	0.35	13.6	2.0	CH ⁰	1.92	Y	108.31	
10	Curtis Bryant	23	1,195	727	60.84	0.25	12.3	2.5	PR ⁻	2.45	Pr	107.88	
11	Landi McFarland	26	1,155	677	58.61	0.25	13.0	2.0	CH ⁰	1.94	Y	104.84	
12	Clay Walser	10	1,235	758	61.38	0.40	12.0	2.0	PR ⁻	2.94	Pr	104.52	MN1
13	Esther McCabe	58	1,020	630	61.76	0.30	10.5	2.5	PR ⁻	2.78	Pr	103.00	KS5
14	Lindy Lister	47	1,130	672	59.47	0.25	13.6	2.0	CH ⁻	1.73		102.98	KS3
15	Jordan Davis	37	1,040	655	62.98	0.25	12.5	2.0	CH ⁰	2.01	Y	102.83	OK2

The grand champion honor went to Hannah McCabe with her 1,075-pound (lb.) steer. The carcass had a 65.40 dressing percentage and graded low-Prime, with a 1.43 yield grade (YG) and a 14.9-square-inch (sq. in.) ribeye area.

Ethan McCabe claimed reserve grand champion carcass steer. His 1,170-lb. steer dressed 64.10% and graded low-Prime with a 1.95 YG and a 14.7-sq.-in. ribeye area.

The champion carcass steers, which both qualified for CAB Prime, were sired by CA Future Direction 5321.

Siblings Ethan, Hannah and Flinton McCabe won grand champion state carcass group.

The McCabes said they will invest their prize money back into their herd for embryo transfers.

Kansas juniors Katherine Jones, Saint Francis; Jacinda Dickinson, Glasco; and Chelsea Dickinson, Glasco, won reserve grand champion state carcass group.



► Hannah (left) and Ethan McCabe, both of Elk City, Kan., claimed grand and reserve grand champion carcass steer, respectively, at the 2004 NJAS.

Table 2: Top 10 state group winners

Rank	Group
1	Kansas 6
2	Kansas 2
3	Oklahoma 2
4	Missouri 1
5	Kansas 4
6	Kansas 3
7	Minnesota 1
8	Kansas 5
9	Missouri 2
10	Minnesota 2



► Kansas juniors are awarded the grand champion state carcass group. Accepting the award is the McCabe family including Flinton, Esther, Hannah and Ethan, all of Elk City.



► Winning reserve grand champion state carcass group are Kansas juniors (from left) Jacinda Dickinson, Glasco; Katherine Jones, Saint Francis; and Chelsea Dickinson, Glasco.