

Top Showmen Named

Showmanship competition recognizes individuals with a talent at presenting their animals and themselves in the best possible light.

Story by *Shelia Stannard*; photos by *Jen Biser & Shauna Rose Hermel*



► Contestants are in the spotlight as judges evaluate their skills in handling animals, their ability to follow instructions, use of equipment, courtesy, sportsmanship and general appearance.

► A total of 55 contestants representing 35 states competed in the 39th annual National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest, sponsored in part by the American Angus Auxiliary and Andis Co.



► Regional manager Jerry Cassady provides an overview of the showmanship contest during an orientation session Thursday, July 21.



2005 NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS SHOW • DENVER, COLORADO

Chad Hahn, Rocky Ridge, Md., rose to the top to claim the honor of first-place showman at the 2005 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest July 22-23, held in conjunction with the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Denver, Colo. A total of 55 contestants representing 35 states competed in the 39th annual event, sponsored in part by the American Angus Auxiliary and Andis Co.

Hahn claimed the honor after first being named to the group of 15 finalists during a preliminary round and competing in the final competition. The prestigious title, which youth can compete for only once in their lifetime, includes a monetary prize from the Hamilton James Memorial Fund and a silver Revere bowl, the Dean Hurlbut Award. The Jake White family also presented Hahn with a handcrafted trophy buckle.

Stephanie Arp, Walcott, Iowa, claimed second-place honors. Kathryn Taylor, Front Royal, Va., won third place. Jacob Wolfrey, White Post, Va., representing Maryland, and Chelsea Wieben, Waterford, Va., claimed fourth and fifth place, respectively.

Each of the top five contestants received cash prizes on behalf of the Hamilton James Memorial Fund, established in memory of Angus enthusiast and auctioneer Ham James. The Auxiliary also presents each of the top five showmen a silver Revere bowl.

Showmanship contestants must first qualify at the state level before they can advance to national competition. Only two junior members per state can compete per

year, and once a showman has competed, he or she is not eligible for the national showmanship contest again. The exhibitors are evaluated on their skills in handling the animal, their ability to follow instructions, use of equipment, courtesy, sportsmanship and general appearance. The contestants do not show their own animal, but are randomly assigned to heifers owned by other exhibitors.

Judges for this year's event included Rick Blanchard, Mendota, Calif.; Kathi Creamer, Montrose, Colo.; and Dru Uden, Franklin, Neb.

The contestants competed in one of four preliminary rounds before the 15 finalists were named. The finalists competed in the final round for top honors. Each of the finalists was awarded a set of clippers from Andis.

Other competitors who rounded out the top 15 included Amanda Schnoor, Chowchilla, Calif.; Drew Schroeder, Clarence, Iowa; Joshua Moritz, Piper City, Ill.; Cody Bock, Hanna City, Ill.; Evan Boehmer, Olivet, Mich.; Ashley Gillig, Aurora, Mo.; Preston Pollard, Enid, Okla.; Lacey Murray, Garrett, Pa.; Charles Tesch, Estelline, S.D.; and Kade Cockrell, Joaquin, Texas.

Contestants who won honorable mentions included Amanda Grilli, Erie,

Colo.; Garrett Lampe, Scott City, Kan.; Coye Crenshaw-Kleve, Manhattan, Kan.; Jillian Warren, Lebanon, Ky.; Cliff Ourso Jr., Donaldsonville, La.; Tawnia Misemer, Mount Vernon, Mo.; Ashley Berkram, Park City, Mont.; Laura May, Hurricane Mills, Tenn.; and Keela Retallick, Glen Haven, Wis.

For photos of the winners, see "At the Backdrop," page 244.



► The top 15 showmen were awarded a set of Andis clippers, and the top five received silver Revere bowls from the American Angus Auxiliary and cash prizes on behalf of the Hamilton James Memorial Fund.



► Showmanship contestants do not show their own animal; they are randomly assigned to heifers owned by other exhibitors and selected by committee during the cattle show.



► Callie Rutherford (left), Town Creek, Ala., and Jon Paul Whitlock, luka, Miss., get ready to hear the judge's results after the final round of the showmanship competition.



► Tawnia Misemer, Mount Vernon, Mo., catches a snooze after her preliminary round in the showmanship competition. Many juniors find it stressful being judged on their every move, and, after a long week, most are ready to take a break.



► Showmanship judges (from left) Dru Uden, Franklin, Neb.; Rick Blanchard, Mendota, Calif.; and Kathi Creamer, Montrose, Colo., compare notes while evaluating 55 contestants in Friday's preliminary rounds. They selected 15 showmen to compete in Saturday's finals.