

Evaluating Carcass Quality

Junior members learn about the industry's true end product through the National Junior Angus Show carcass contest.

by JD Rosman, communications intern

Understanding how Angus cattle perform beyond the farm or ranch is an important component of the carcass steer contest hosted during the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Thirty-three steers were a part of the 2016 NJAS carcass steer contest, where juniors were able to learn firsthand what ranchers are targeting when raising cattle.

Hosted in Grand Island, Neb., July 3-9, the NJAS and the carcass contest continue to grow. Once checked in, the steers were weighed and taken to the JBS beef plant in Grand Island, where the steers were harvested and graded.

Within five days, carcass data were received and ranked by carcass merit. The top steers were announced at the NJAS awards ceremony July 8.

"The carcass contest is a great way for juniors to find value in their cattle outside of the showring," says Chelsey Smith, American Angus Association assistant director of events and education. "It teaches the juniors what the ultimate end product is, and reinforces what the Angus and beef industry is about: a safe and wholesome product for our consumers."

The top steers' exhibitors were awarded contest premiums in addition to carcass premiums. Of the steers exhibited, nearly 52% qualified for the *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) brand. In addition to prize money, contestants — many of whom compete



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in the contest for several years — received carcass data back to influence future selection decisions.

Alexis Vandenberghe, Cleveland, N.D., exhibited the grand champion carcass steer. Her steer, sired by Connealy Gold 579, graded low-Prime with a yield grade (YG) of 3.1, had a 12.6-square-inch (sq. in.) ribeye

area, and had a hot-carcass weight of 791 pounds (lb.), allowing this steer to qualify for CAB. Vandenberghe received a \$26-per-hundredweight (cwt.) grid premium.

Reserve champion carcass steer was exhibited by Callie Eastin, Gretna, Va., who had the grand champion carcass steer the previous year. Her steer, sired by Connealy

2016 NJAS Carcass Contest Results

Rank	Name	State Group	Entry #	Live wt. (lb.)	Dressing %	HCW (lb.)	Fat (in.)	REA (sq. in.)	Marb score (400 = Small ^{est})	QG	YG
1	Alexis Vandenberghe	ND A	22	1,276	62.0%	791	0.44	12.6	783	PR-	3.1
2	Callie Eastin	VA	35	1,300	60.1%	781	0.48	12.4	875	PR ^o	3.2
3	Ryder Wendel	ND B	29	1,288	61.2%	788	0.56	12.1	747	PR-	3.5
4	Callie Eastin	VA	36	1,400	60.9%	853	0.36	14.2	677	CH+	2.6
5	Chase Monte		41	1,264	61.9%	782	0.52	9.5	730	PR-	4.2
6	Danika Gordon		6	1,412	59.1%	834	0.48	12.8	538	CH ^o	3.3
7	Jordyn Wickard		21	1,366	59.7%	816	0.40	11.3	539	CH ^o	3.5
8	Emma Eathington		23	1,332	60.6%	807	0.48	12.3	652	CH+	3.3
9	Kinsey Crowe		39	1,282	62.5%	801	0.60	13.9	571	CH ^o	3.1
10	Ty Mogck	SD	27	1,428	62.4%	891	0.68	12.9	610	CH+	4.0



Black Granite, graded Prime with a 3.2 YG, had a 12.4-sq.-in. ribeye area, had a hot-carcass weight of 781 lb., and qualified for CAB. Eastin also received a \$26-per-cwt. grid premium.

Chase Monte, Mexico, Mo., won grand champion bred-and-owned (B&O) and fifth overall carcass steer. His steer, sired by SydGen Black Diamond 2769, graded low-Prime with a 4.2 YG, had a 9.5-sq.-in. ribeye area and a hot-carcass weight of 782 lb. Monte received a \$16-per-cwt. grid premium.

Emma Eathington, Avon, Ill., won reserve grand champion B&O and eighth overall carcass steer with her son of Coleman Regis 904, which graded high-Choice with a 3.3 YG, had a 12.3-sq.-in. ribeye area, a hot-carcass weight of 807 lb. and qualified for

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2016 NJAS Carcass Contest state group results

Rank	Team	Name	Entry #	Prem. (\$/hd.)	State Avg.
1	VA	Callie Eastin	35	\$203.06	
1	VA	Callie Eastin	36	\$153.54	
1	VA	Suter Clark	26	\$108.29	\$154.96
2	MO	Alexis Koelling	16	\$102.44	
2	MO	Alexis Borgstadt	20	\$101.14	
2	MO	David Warfield Jr.	15	\$84.81	\$96.13
3	ND B	Ryder Wendel	29	\$189.12	
3	ND B	Reed Wendel	12	\$67.76	
3	ND B	Rose Wendel	2	\$22.74	\$93.21
4	ND A	Alexis Vandeberghe	22	\$205.66	
4	ND A	Sara Hatlewick	1	\$23.73	
4	ND A	Reed Wendel	7	—	\$76.46
5	SD	Ty Mogck	27	\$115.83	
5	SD	Christina Mogck	31	\$112.32	
5	SD	Chase Mogck	19	—	\$76.05
6	MT	Beau Bromenschenk	10	\$101.40	
6	MT	Garrett Bromenschenk	3	\$79.53	
6	MT	Beau Bromenschenk	24	\$27.15	\$69.36
7	NE	Savannah Schafer	18	\$106.73	
7	NE	Reagan Skow	28	\$69.84	
7	NE	Colby Nelson	9	\$(13.96)	\$54.20

CAB®	Grid prem. (\$/cwt.)	Carcass prem. (\$/hd.)
Yes	\$26.00	\$205.66
Yes	\$26.00	\$203.06
Yes	\$24.00	\$189.12
Yes	\$18.00	\$153.54
No	\$16.00	\$125.12
Yes	\$15.00	\$125.10
Yes	\$15.00	\$122.40
Yes	\$15.00	\$121.05
Yes	\$15.00	\$120.15
Yes	\$13.00	\$115.83

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CAB. Eathington received a \$15-per-cwt. grid premium.

The other exhibitors in the top 10 were, in order: Ryder Wendel, LaMoure, N.D.; a second steer exhibited by Callie Eastin; Chase Monte; Danika Gordon, Whitewood, S.D.; Jordyn Wickard, Greenfield, Ind.; Emma Eathington; Kinsey Crowe, West Alexandria, Ohio; and Ty Mogck, Olivet, S.D.

Another aspect of the contest is the state group. Three steers are grouped together by at least two exhibitors in lots for a real-world application. For the second year in a row, the Virginia team consisting of Callie Eastin and Suter Clark, Gretna, Va., won the state group.

Additional NJAS contest placings, awards and scholarships can be found on www.angus.org. Coverage is also available on the NJAA Facebook page, including videos, show results and photos. Backdrop and candid photos are available for purchase online.



► These junior Angus members entered steers in the top 10 of the carcass steer contest. Pictured are (from left) Chase Monte, fifth; Jordyn Wickard, seventh; Emma Eathington, eighth; Kinsey Crowe, ninth; and Ty Mogck, 10th. Also pictured is Curtis Long, Briarwood Angus Farms, presenting.



► Virginia junior Angus members won champion state carcass group. Pictured are (from left) Long, presenting; Callie Eastin and Suter Clark, recipients; and David Warfield, presenting.



► Missouri junior Angus members won reserve champion state carcass group. Pictured are (from left) Long, presenting; Alexis Borgstadt, Concordia; recipient; Alexis Koelling, Laddonia, recipient; and Warfield, presenting.



► Right: Alexis Vandenberghe (center), won grand champion carcass steer, and Callie Eastin (right) won reserve grand champion carcass steer, presented by Long.

► Left: Chase Monte (center) won grand champion B&O carcass steer, and Emma Eathington (right) won reserve grand champion B&O carcass steer, presented by Long.

