

# Experience is Everything



PHOTOS BY KASEY MILLER

## Youth gain valuable career-development skills during the 2012 National Junior Angus Show.

by **Ellie Hoffschneider**, American Angus Association

**F**inding that perfect job or earning a scholarship can be difficult, but National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members are no strangers to competition. One competition in particular, the Career Development Contest at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), prepares youth for real-world professional challenges.

Prior to the NJAS, hosted this year in Louisville, Ky., contestants submitted a résumé for evaluation. At the show, the contestants participated in a private interview with three judges.

In the senior division, contestants create a résumé and interview for a potential career in an area of their choice. The second age division was added to the contest this year, allowing juniors in the intermediate division to submit a résumé and interview for a potential scholarship.

First-time contestant Ashlyn Richardson, Lincoln, Mo., says she enjoyed the challenge and appreciated the chance to sharpen her skills.

“The interview was tough, but I know



► **Shane Kerner, Weiser, Idaho, greets the judges with a handshake before her interview.**

that this contest is an experience that will help me in the future when I apply for jobs,” Richardson says. Having had this experience, she says she definitely knows the value in being prepared and professional.

“It’s very important in an interview to not only know yourself, but to also know how your abilities fit the position you are applying for,” Richardson says.

### 2012 winners

Placing in the interview portion of the intermediate division were Will Pohlman, Prairie Grove, Ark., first; Maci Lienemann, Princeton, Neb., second; and Katlyn Tunstill, Fayetteville, Ark., third.

Placing in the résumé portion of the intermediate division were Tunstill, first; Michaela Clowser, Milford, Neb., second; and Elizabeth Nixon, Rapidan, Va., third.

Tunstill was the overall winner in the intermediate division.

Placing in the interview portion of the senior division were Brooke Harward, Richfield, N.C., first; Paige Wallace, Stotts City, Mo., second; and Lindsay Upperman, Chambersburg,

Pa., third.

Placing in the résumé portion of the senior division were Lauren Adcock, Moweaqua, Ill., first; Wallace, second; and Harward, third.

Harward was the overall winner in the senior division. 

**Editor’s Note:** *Ellie Hoffschneider is communications and public relations intern for the American Angus Association.*

► **Above:** Anna Carpenter, Wamego, Kan., answers questions in her intermediate division interview.