



PHOTO BY SHAUNA ROSE HERMEL

Honoring the Legacy

NJAS attendees collect food for local community food network.

by Lynsey Meharg, intern

When the exhibitors of the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), themed Aberdeen in 2013, came together in Kansas City, Mo., big things began to happen. Of the events that would take place over the next several days, one in particular stood out as a way to continue the legacy and give back to the area hosting the members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), their families and supporters.

“In our country, hunger is still an issue,” said Katie Bromley, food drive manager for Harvesters Community Food Network, the NJAS host committee’s chosen philanthropy. “People don’t know where their next meal will come from.”

As the area’s only food bank, Harvesters assists as many as 66,000 people per week through gifts of emergency food assistance. A clearinghouse for the collection and distribution of food and related household products, Harvesters has been helping people since it was founded in 1979. Not only does Harvesters collect food and household products from community and industry sources, it also distributes those products and provides nutrition services through a

network of nonprofit agencies, as well as offering leadership and educational programs to increase community awareness of hunger and generate solutions to fight it.

Harvesters’ network is made up of more than 620 nonprofit agencies, which include emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, children’s homes, homes for the mentally disabled and shelters for battered persons.

In 2012, Harvesters distributed more than 41 million pounds of food and household products in a 26-county service area in northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas. Harvesters develops partnerships with growers, processors, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and restaurants, encouraging them to donate, not dump, unwanted foods. Local individuals, businesses, places of worship, schools and civic organizations also donate nonperishable food and household products through community food drives for Harvesters.

Leading up to the NJAS, monetary donations were accepted online through a virtual food drive where each donation was maximized to the fullest potential, allowing

Harvesters to turn each \$5 donation into 25 meals. When members arrived at NJAS, each state donated canned and boxed food items before entering the ring to be recognized during opening ceremonies. During the week, state associations continued to donate items until both the drive at the show and the drive online closed Wednesday at noon. After the food was collected and recorded, the winners of the food drive were announced at the awards ceremony the last night of NJAS.

“Part of the Angus legend has always been extending a helping hand to others,” says Kathryn Coon, 2013 NJAS co-chair. “The Missouri juniors wanted to continue honoring that legend by choosing Harvesters, Kansas City’s regional food bank, as our 2013 National Junior Angus Show community service project.”

During closing ceremonies, Coon announced the winners of the contest. The Tennessee Junior Angus Association, donating the equivalent of 2,125 meals, placed first. The Wisconsin Junior Angus Association, with 1,400 meals, placed second; and the Washington Junior Angus Association, with 1,350 meals, placed third. Through the drive, NJAA members and supporters donated a total of 4,875 meals.



►Above: Before walking into the ring for opening ceremonies, juniors dropped donations to Harvesters Community Food Network in designated barrels. During the week, state associations continued to donate items until both the drive at the show and the drive online closed Wednesday at noon.

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