



Juniors Develop Interview Skills at 2011 NJAS

Career Development Contest gives Angus youth practice for real-world application.

Story & photos by **Carrie Gilliam**

The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) prides itself on developing well-rounded, leadership-oriented individuals. The second annual Career Development Contest at the 2011 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) helped Angus youth apply their skills to résumé building and interviewing in a real-world application.

The overall champion for the contest and first-year participant, Lauren Adcock, Moweaqua, Ill., says the contest was an excellent way to prepare for future job interviews and to gain experience.

“It is important to participate in skill-building contests because it gives you tools for success in the future,” Adcock says.

The contest is split into two portions — résumé and interview. The résumé is judged on content; creativity and design; organization; style and grammar; and overall effectiveness. The interview is based on the participant’s selling points; response to questions; language and communication; appearance; and total effectiveness of the interview.

Juniors placing in the résumé contest included Adcock, first place; Paige Wallace, Stotts City, Mo., second place; and Hannah McCabe, Elk City, Kan., third place.

Interview competition winners included Wallace, first place; McCabe, second place; and Adcock, third place.

McCabe has participated in the contest for the past two years.

“I walked away from the contest with the realization that the interview panel is not there to intimidate you; they simply want to get to know you and your experiences,” she says. “I found my success by being conversational, relaxed and remembering to breathe.”

Robin Ruff, director of junior activities for the American Angus Association, says the Career Development Contest was developed because the NJAA saw the need to help older juniors take the next steps into their careers.

“This contest allows juniors to receive

advice and critiques from professionals and will give them an advantage when applying for a future job,” Ruff says. “With the job market competition rising, this contest is irreplaceable.”

Contest judge Kevin Adams, area sales manager for Land O’ Lakes Purina Feed, says, overall, the group was impressive. His advice for future participants is to take another look at their résumé before turning it in.

“It is more important to show your qualifications versus everything you are involved in,” Adams says. He adds to select and elaborate upon the most important activities.



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► Career Development Contest winners are (from left) Paige Wallace, first-place interview, second-place résumé; Hannah McCabe, second-place interview, third-place résumé; and Lauren Adcock, first-place résumé, third-place interview and overall champion.



► Katherine Throne, Lexington, Ga., participates in the Career Development Contest. This was the second year of the contest, which is intended to prepare junior members for future job interviews.