



Let Freedom Ring

More than a Cattle Show

A week in pictures.

Story & photos by **Katie Gazda**, editorial intern

National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members spanning from California to Maine traveled to Harrisburg, Pa., July 10-16 for the 2011 National Junior Angus Show. The event, hosted at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex by the Pennsylvania Angus and Junior Angus associations, was comprised of educational contests, cattle shows and the election of the 2011-2012 National Junior Angus Board of Directors. Additionally, scholarships and awards were presented to the NJAA's most outstanding youth. ★

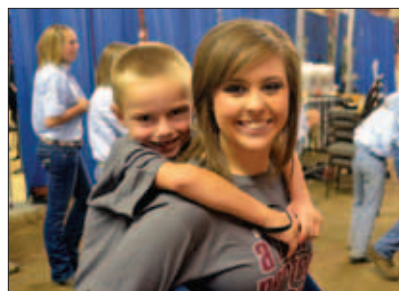


►**Left:** Flat Andy greeted trucks and trailers as they arrived at the NJAS. Many NJAA members and their families took pictures with Flat Andy throughout their journey to Harrisburg as they made pitstops to change tires, water the cattle and even brush their teeth.

►**Below:** In addition to Flat Andy, the NJAS welcoming team was composed of volunteers and members of the Pennsylvania Angus and Junior Angus associations.



►Kirk Stierwalt presented a fitting clinic Monday afternoon, introducing many juniors to the basics of the trade.



►**Left:** State junior associations brought out their state flags and donned matching t-shirts, polos and jerseys for Opening Ceremonies Monday night. Each state also contributed to Pennsylvania's service initiative, Support Our American Recruits (SOAR), providing care packages to deployed troops.



►Monday also played host to the annual NJAS Mentoring Mixer. Juniors ranging from age 5 to 21 participated in icebreakers with the NJAA Board of Directors. At the conclusion of the mixer, mentors and mentees were paired off for the week.



►Each year regional managers play a large role in the success of the NJAS. From checking tattoos to working the ring to loading carcass steers, they are an instrumental part of the NJAA team.



►Jaclyn Upperman, Katrina Frey and Kate Livingston, junior co-chairs of the 2011 NJAS, presented a C.J. Brown painting to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in appreciation of its continual support of the show over the years of planning.



►Unlike many other shows, the NJAS is much more than a cattle show. Educational contests kicked off Tuesday and ranged from prepared public speaking to cattle judging to career development.



►Above: Prior to arriving in Harrisburg, many state associations and junior members channeled their creativity into scrapbooks, posters and photos. Tuesday, a team of judges evaluated the entries.



►During the week, The Angus Agenda was published daily and distributed throughout the barn. In addition to the day's schedule of events, it contained various articles from junior board members, profiles of board candidates and opportunities for sightseeing in Harrisburg and nearby.



►The Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off took place on Tuesday. Teams created skits to showcase their recipe of choice to judges in categories including steaks, roasts and other beef items.



►Sixteen juniors entered 21 steers in the 2011 Carcass Contest. Steers were sent to JBS in Souderton, Pa., on Tuesday to be harvested and evaluated. Nine entries qualified for *Certified Angus Beef*®.



►Six juniors were elected to the NJAA Board: Meghan Blythe, Kansas; JanLee Rowlett, Tennessee; Sally Yon, South Carolina; Kelli Retallick, Wisconsin; Jennifer Ewing, Illinois; and Megan Ahearn, Texas.



►The second-annual Chef's Challenge took place Tuesday. The challenge consisted of creating a dish using a specified cut of *Certified Angus Beef*® and secret ingredients provided by the contest the day before.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 106



Let Freedom Ring

More than a Cattle Show CONTINUED FROM PAGE 105



►Throughout the course of the week, the American Angus Association's PR department shot extensive video footage of the shows and contests. The footage was then combined into an hour-long special, *Champion of Champions*, which aired Aug. 8 on RFD-TV.



►**Above:** Wednesday afternoon played host to the extemporaneous speaking contest. Juniors were given a set amount of time to prepare before presenting a speech to a panel of judges on a specified topic.

►**Right:** Chuck Grove, regional manager for the American Angus Association, put his bid-taking skills to good use when the NJAS milk jug was auctioned off during the show on Wednesday.



►The sun sets as a parade of juniors and their cattle head to the tie outs for the night. 500 juniors and their families participated in the event.



►For many NJAA families, the NJAS serves as summer vacation. Downtime in the barn served as a reunion for past generations and as a foundation for future generations of NJAA members.



►Wednesday's bred-and-owned heifer show featured 181 heifers.



►Linda and Ned Hower donated a milk can Linda painted with NJAS logos. Tom Burke of the American Angus Hall of Fame purchased the can for \$1,200 at auction with proceeds going toward the show.



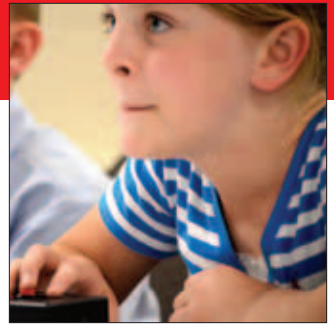
►Blake Boyd, Mayslick, Ky., exhibited the reserve grand champion bred-and-owned heifer. The winning entry was selected on Wednesday.



▶ Alan Miller, Gridley, Ill., evaluated the bred-and-owned bull show on Thursday. Kade Patton, Frankfort, Ind., exhibited the grand champion.



▶ Forty-eight young showmen representing 27 states competed in Thursday's preliminary rounds of the showmanship contest.



▶ Many states participated in the quiz bowl contest Wednesday afternoon. Topics covered in the contest included beef cattle knowledge, animal science and the Angus industry.



▶ Delegates to the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest waited anxiously Thursday afternoon to hear the results of round one. Fifteen individuals were selected to compete in Saturday's final round.



▶ Blowers, clippers and adhesive were necessary tools for the team-fitting contest, which took place Thursday afternoon. Teams consisted of four members, with at least one member from each age division.

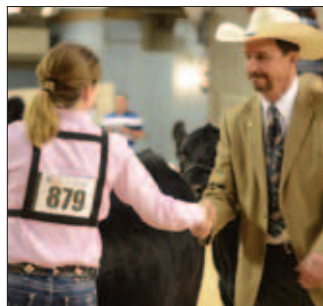
▶ **Right:** The National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest took place Thursday afternoon and Saturday morning. Sam Carter, Julesburg, Colo.; John Grimes, Hillsboro, Ohio; and John Toledo, Visalia, Calif., served as judges of the prestigious event.



▶ Sally Yon, Ridge Spring, S.C., received the first NJAA Alumni & Friends scholarship Friday morning. Many scholarships are made available through the Angus Foundation thanks to generous donations from Angus supporters. Many of the scholarships were presented Friday morning during the show.



▶ Enthusiasm for showing Angus cattle begins at an early age.



▶ Ernie Wallace, Stotts City, Mo., evaluated the owned heifer show on Friday and Saturday. Prior to selecting the grand champion female Saturday afternoon, he noted what an honor it was to judge the show with his daughter, Miss American Angus Paige Wallace, at his side.



▶ NJAA members exhibited 815 entries at this year's NJAS, themed "Let Freedom Ring."