

Aberdeen in twenty-thirteen

Battle in the Showring

States send their top showmen to compete at the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in Kansas City, Mo.

by Laurin Spraberry, American Angus Association



► **Above:** Forty-four young men and women competed for the coveted title of champion showman.

► **Right:** Judges (from left) Lacey Robinson, Randy White and Jason Hoffman compare notes.



The first National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) was hosted in 1969 in Columbia, Mo., and in 1974 the elite showmanship competition was first conducted in conjunction with the NJAS. This highly anticipated event is not only a chance for juniors to represent their state, but also an opportunity for youth to display their hard work, skill and pride in the Angus breed.

At the 2013 NJAS in Kansas City, Mo., it was Paige Wallace of Stotts City, Mo., who beat out 43 other young men and women for the coveted title. She received the Dean Hurlbut Award, presented in honor of the man who organized the first showmanship competition in Lexington, Ky., and a silver bowl provided by the American Angus Auxiliary.

"I was excited and overjoyed to hear them call my name," Wallace says. "At the same time though, I was overwhelmed and a bit shocked because this is such a competitive contest that I had always dreamed of winning."

Wallace says to prepare for the competition, she and her mother made an effort to work with her show heifers and practice the small details that make an effective showman.

Each state is allowed two participants to represent them in the competition. Three judges evaluated the juniors on their skills handling an animal they have never shown before, ability to follow instructions from the surrogate judge, and evidence of courtesy and sportsmanship in the ring.

Rounding out the top five were: MacKenzie Flory, Baldwin City, Kan., second; Luke Nord, Wolverton, Minn., third; Kayla Wideman, Good Hope, Ill., fourth; and Brady Jensen, Courtland, Kan., fifth. Each of the top five showmen receives a cash prize from the Hamilton James Memorial Fund and a Silver Revere bowl from the American Angus Auxiliary.

Others winning a spot in Wednesday morning's final round featuring the top 15 showmen were Blake Boyd, Mayslick, Ky.; Colleen Jones, Kinston, N.C.; Hailey Keller, Kimball, Neb.; Savannah Levisay, Creston, Calif.; Mary Kate Mardesen, Oxford, Iowa; Colby Myers, Harrodsburg, Ky.; Shelby Stabler, Gaithersburg, Md.; Erin Steele, Anita, Iowa; Shannon Tower, Copperopolis, Calif.; and Emily Velisek, Gaithersburg, Md. The 15 finalists each received a pair of Andis® clippers.

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► **Left:** The top 15 finalists at the 2013 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest are (front row, from left) **Shelby Stabler**, Gaithersburg, Md.; **Kayla Widerman**, Good Hope, Ill., fourth; **Shannon Tower**, Copperopolis, Calif.; **Emily Velisek**, Gaithersburg, Md.; **Hailey Keller**, Kimball, Neb.; **Savannah Levisay**, Creston, Calif.; **Paige Wallace**, Stotts City, Mo., first; (back row, from left) **Mackenzie Flory**, Baldwin City, Kan., second; **Blake Boyd**, Mayslick, Ky.; **Luke Nord**, Wolverton, Minn., third; **Brady Jensen**, Courtland, Kan., fifth; **Colby Myers**, Harrodsburg, Ky.; **Erin Steele**, Anita, Iowa; **Mary Kate Mardesen**, Oxford, Iowa; and **Colleen Jones**, Kinston, N.C.



► **Paige Wallace** (left), Stotts City, Mo., claimed top showmanship honors, winning the prestigious Dean Hurlbut Award. American Angus Auxiliary President Cortney Hill-Dukehart Cates (right) presented the Silver Revere bowl in honor of Hurlbut.



► Judges posed with their top five showmen. Pictured are (from left) Jason Hoffman, judge; **Brady Jensen**, Courtland, Kan., fifth; **Kayla Widerman**, Good Hope, Ill., fourth; **Luke Nord**, Wolverton, Minn., third; **Mackenzie Flory**, Baldwin City, Kan., second; **Paige Wallace**, Stotts City, Mo., first; and Lacey Robinson and Randy White, judges. Watch video highlights of the showmanship contest at <http://bit.ly/139WvFg>. Digital subscribers can click on the photo above.



► **Above:** Lindsay Upperman, Chambersburg, Pa., gets her heifer's attention. Showmen must establish a connection with their animals.

► **Left:** Surrogate judge Greg McCurry, Sedgwick, Kan., puts the showmen through their process.

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Five additional individuals earned honorable mentions: Emily Harrell, Roseville, Ill.; Kaylee Hartsfield, Rector, Ark.; Clayton McGuire, Waverly, Ala.; Kyla Olson, Saint Ignatius, Mont.; and Lindsay

Upperman, Chambersburg, Pa.

For more news and information from the 2013 NJAS, visit www.angus.org to find contest results, awards, scholarships and show photos.

Editor's Note: Laurin Spraberry is the public relations and communications intern for the American Angus Association.



► The first National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest was hosted in conjunction with The All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity in Lexington, Ky., in 1967. Sam Wylie III of Nottingham, Pa., won the first contest.



► While the first National Junior Angus Heifer Show was in 1969 in conjunction with the National Angus Conference at the University of Missouri-Columbia, it wasn't until 1974 that the two events were combined.

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