



# Best in the Ring

Junior members competed for the title of 'Top Showman' at 2011 NJAS.

by *Carrie Gilliam*

**C**attle shows are about more than exhibiting livestock; they are a display of skill, hard work and pride in the agriculture and Angus industries. Showmanship events, in particular, are a way to exhibit talent in the showing. Each year a select few

National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members qualify to compete for the title of "Top Showman" in the prestigious NJAA Showmanship Contest.

JanLee Rowlett, Hurricane Mills, Tenn., beat out 47 young men and women from

27 states at the 2011 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) July 16 in Harrisburg, Pa., to capture the coveted title. She received the Dean Hurlbut Award, presented in honor of the former American Angus Association director of activities and originator of the

► **Above:** The top 15 finalists in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest are (from left) **Caleb Sadler**, Carlisle, Ky.; **James Full**, Mount Airy, Md.; **JanLee Rowlett**, Hurricane Mills, Tenn.; **Hannah McCabe**, Elk City, Kan.; **Kyle Anderson**, Chrisman, Ill.; **Lauren Adcock**, Moweaqua, Ill.; **Sarah Wogan**, Hebron, Ohio; **Ty Bayer**, Ringle, Wis.; **Garrett Borgelt**, Beemer, Neb.; **Matthew Boecker**, Bentonville, Ark.; **Justin Bachman**, Lancaster, Ohio; **Jacy Alsup**, Gravette, Ark.; **Kaley Bockhop**, Belmont, Wis.; **Bobby Strecker**, Rockbridge Baths, Va.; and **Bryanne Duckett**, New Liberty, Iowa.

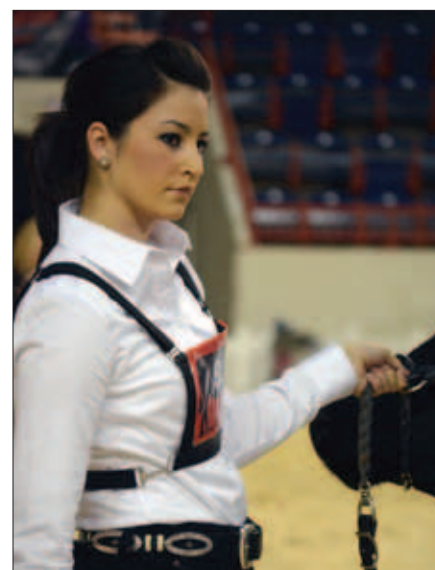


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► **JanLee Rowlett**, Hurricane Mills, Tenn., claimed first-place showmanship honors.



► **Ty Bayer**, Ringle, Wis., claimed second place.



► **Jacy Alsup**, Gravette, Ark., won third place.



contest, and a silver Revere bowl provided by the American Angus Auxiliary. She also received a \$350 monetary award provided by the Hamilton James Memorial Fund in memory of Angus enthusiast and auctioneer Ham James.

“I have dreamt of showing in this contest for many years,” Rowlett said after the competition, adding that just being in the top five would have been a dream come true.

To prepare for the contest, she said she worked weekly with young exhibitors in her county and observed other showmen to sharpen her own showmanship skills. Mental preparation, she shares, was a large part of her success.

“On the morning of, I finally let myself envision what it would be like to win, how I would react and what it would feel like. This gave me confidence going into the ring,” she said.

Other showmen in the top five include: Ty Bayer, Ringle, Wis., second place; Jacy Alsup, Gravette, Ark., third place; Lauren Adcock, Moweaqua, Ill., fourth place; and Sarah Wogan, Hebron, Ohio, fifth place. They also received a monetary award and a silver Revere bowl.

Judges John Toledo, Visalia, Calif.; Sam Carter, Julesburg, Colo.; and John Grimes, Hillsboro, Ohio, evaluated the top showmen selected from each state. Exhibiting heifers selected from the show and randomly assigned, exhibitors were scored according to their skill, ability to follow instructions, use of equipment,



► Receiving honorable mention at the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest are (from left) **Katie Bartholomew**, Bend, Ore.; **Gabrielle Glenister**, Pulaski, N.Y.; **Ethan Whiteside**, Queenstown, Md.; **Adam Murray**, Leesburg, Va.; **Hannah Wright**, Spring City, Tenn.; **Amanda Tresslar**, Franklin, Ind.; and **Calli Pritchard**, Aurora, S.D.

courtesy, sportsmanship and general appearance. JoAnn Hausner, Dover, Pa., served as surrogate judge.

Youth can compete only once in the national contest, which is sponsored by the American Angus Association, the American Angus Auxiliary, the Hamilton James Memorial Fund and Andis® Clippers.

Toledo, a former NJAA Showmanship contestant, said the contest represents the pinnacle of showmanship competitions.

“This stage of a young person’s life is extremely critical, and being surrounded by people with similar backgrounds and being raised properly is extremely important,”

Toledo said. “The showmanship event ties it all together, and there isn’t anything better for a young person to be involved in than the junior Angus program.”

The 48 competitors first qualified at their respective state shows before advancing to the preliminary round at the NJAS, where 15 finalists and seven honorable mentions were announced. Finalists competed in a concluding round two days later.

Other finalists in the top 15, receiving a set of Andis® Clippers and \$75, include Matthew Boecker, Bentonville, Ark.; Bryanne Duckett, New Liberty, Iowa; Kyle Anderson, Chrisman, Ill.; Hannah McCabe, Elk City, Kan.; Caleb Sadler, Carlisle, Ky.; James Full, Mount Airy, Md.; Garrett Borgelt, Beemer, Neb.; Justin Bachman, Lancaster, Ohio; Bobby Strecker, Rockbridge Baths, Va.; and Kaley Bockhop, Belmont, Wis.

Juniors who received honorable mention include: Amanda Tresslar, Franklin, Ind.; Ethan Whiteside, Queenstown, Md.; Gabrielle Glenister, Pulaski, N.Y.; Katie Bartholomew, Bend, Ore.; Calli Pritchard, Aurora, S.D.; Hannah Wright, Spring City, Tenn.; and Adam Murray, Leesburg, Va. ★

**Editor’s Note:** *Carrie Gilliam, a recent graduate of Kansas State University, is the 2011 public relations and communications intern for the American Angus Association.*



► **Lauren Adcock**, Moweaqua, Ill., placed fourth.



► **Sarah Wogan**, Hebron, Ohio, placed fifth.