►Steers are not shown in the carcass contest, but should be trained to lead.

2017 NJAS Carcass Contest Results

Rank	Name	State Group	Entry #	Live wt. (lb.)	Dressing %	HCW (lb.)	Fat (in.)	REA (sq. in.)	Marb score (400 = Small⁰⁰)	QG	YG
1	Garrett Bromenshenk	MT	15	1,366	62.7%	857	0.50	13.4	700	Pr-	3.2
2	Suter Clark	VA	39	1,340	58.6%	785	0.30	14.8	740	Pr-	2.0
3	Chase Monte		31	1,282	60.4%	774	0.30	13.0	750	Pr-	2.5
4	Beau Bromenshenk	MT	12	1,312	63.5%	833	0.70	13.1	700	Pr-	3.8
5	Gordon Clark	VA	40	1,456	60.7%	884	0.30	14.3	540	Ch⁰	2.5
6	Kelsey Vandeberghe	ND 1	32	1,340	57.4%	769	0.50	10.6	700	Pr-	3.7
7	Aubrey Herbers	VA	41	1,522	59.9%	911	0.30	15.7	580	Ch⁰	2.0
8	Alexis Vandeberghe	ND 1	29	1,258	58.5%	736	0.50	11.0	710	Pr-	3.5
9	Kelsey Vandeberghe	ND 2	8	1,260	61.7%	778	0.30	12.8	500	Ch⁰	2.6
10	Rose Wendel	ND 3	30	1,218	62.6%	763	0.30	13.8	550	Ch⁰	2.1

Evaluating Carcass Quality

Junior members learn about the industry's end product through the NJAS Carcass Steer Contest.

Story & photos by **Mayzie Purviance,** *editorial intern*

Understanding how Angus cattle perform beyond the farm or ranch is an important component of the Carcass Steer Contest hosted during the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Forty steers were a part of the 2017 contest, through which juniors were able to learn firsthand what ranchers are targeting when raising cattle.

The Carcass Steer Contest is unique in that exhibitors don't exactly show these steers. Following check-in, they send the steers off for harvest, evaluation and grading. Within a matter of days, the steers' carcass merit was reported, and the top steers were announced at the NJAS Awards Ceremony July 14.

"The carcass steer contest at NJAS is one that is held so exhibitors can learn more about carcass values, premiums, and efficient feeding and management of Angus cattle," says Bailey Palmer, American Angus Association coordinator of events and education. "Junior members feed and manage these steers specifically to compete in the carcass class. The entries were shipped to Iowa Premium Beef, where carcass data was collected. Exhibitors will receive payment based on a value-based grid, which the carcasses were sold on."

"Forty entries from eight states competed in the carcass class at the NJAS, confirming that the Angus legacy will continue for

generations to come. I think this is a great contest, because it shows the versatility that Angus cattle have, and how they can be beneficial to any producer," Palmer adds.

The top steers' exhibitors were awarded contest premiums in addition to carcass

premiums. Of the steers exhibited, nearly 52% qualified for the *Certified Angus Beef®* (CAB®) brand. In addition to prize money, contestants — many of whom have competed in the contest for several years —

CAB®	Grid prem. ($/cwt.)	Carcass prem. ($/hd.)
Yes	$27.00	$231.39
Yes	$28.00	$219.80
Yes	$28.00	$216.72
Yes	$25.00	$208.25
Yes	$21.00	$185.64
Yes	$23.00	$176.87
Yes	$19.00	$173.09
Yes	$23.00	$169.28
Yes	$19.00	$147.82
Yes	$19.00	$144.97

► Steers are given a contest ID tag at check-in when they are weighed before being transported to the processing facility.

2017 NJAS Carcass Contest state group results

Rank	Team	Name	Entry #	Prem. ($/hd.)	State Avg.
1	VA	Suter Clark	39	$219.80	
1	VA	J. Gordon Clark	40	$185.64	
1	VA	Aubrey Herbers	41	$173.09	$192.84
2	ND 1	Kelsey Vandeberghe	32	$176.87	
2	ND 1	Alexis Vandeberghe	29	$169.28	
2	ND 1	Alexis Vandeberghe	24	$142.12	$162.76

EVALUATING CARCASS QUALITY

received carcass data back to influence future selection decisions.

The grand champion carcass steer was exhibited by Garrett Bromenshenk of Billings, Mont. His steer graded low-Prime with a yield grade of 3.2. The steer had a 13.4-square-inch (sq. in.) ribeye and had a hot carcass weight of 857 pounds (lb.), which allowed the steer to qualify for CAB. Bromenshenk received a grid premium of $27.00 per hundredweight (cwt.).

Suter Clark of Gretna, Va., was awarded reserve grand champion carcass steer. His steer graded low-Prime with a yield grade of 2.0. The steer had a ribeye area of 14.8 sq. in. and a hot carcass weight of 785 lb. His steer also qualified for CAB, and Clark was awarded a grid premium of $28.00 per cwt.

State group was another aspect of the contest. Three steers were grouped together by no less than two exhibitors. Continuing their victory, Virginia won the state group. The Virginia team was composed of Suter Clark, J. Gordon Clark and Aubrey Herbers, all of Gretna, Va.

►In the bred-and-owned division, **Garrett Bromenshenk** (center) won grand champion carcass steer. The 1,366-lb. steer sired by BSF Hot Lotto 1401 graded low-Prime with a 3.2 yield grade. **Beau Bromenshenk,** Billings, Mont., won reserve grand champion carcass steer. The 1,312-lb. steer sired by BC 7022 Raven 7965 graded low-Prime with a 3.8 yield grade. Jonna McCullough (right) accepts the award on behalf of Beau. Dr. Curtis Long of Briarwood Farms presents the awards.

►**Garrett Bromenshenk's** (center) B&O entry also won grand champion owned carcass steer. **Suter Clark** (right) won reserve grand champion owned carcass steer. The 1,340-lb. steer sired by GAR Prophet graded low-Prime with a 2.0 yield grade. Presenting the awards is Long.

PHOTOS BY PEARL'S PICS COURTESY AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

►The entries were shipped to Iowa Premium Beef for processing evaluation.

►**Above:** Rounding out top 10 honors in the 2017 National Junior Angus Show Carcass Steer Contest are (from left) **Rose Wendel,** LaMoure, N.D., 10th; **Kelsey Vandeberghe,** sixth and ninth, and **Alexis Vandeberghe,** eighth, both of Cleveland, N.D.; **Aubrey Herbers,** Lynchburg, Va., seventh; **J. Gordon Clark,** Gretna, Va., fifth; and **Chase Monte,** Mexico, Mo. third. Not pictured is Beau Bromenshenk, fourth.

►**Left:** North Dakota juniors won reserve champion state carcass group. Pictured are (from left) **Kelsey Vandeberghe,** recipient; Long, presenting; and **Alexis Vandeberghe,** recipient.