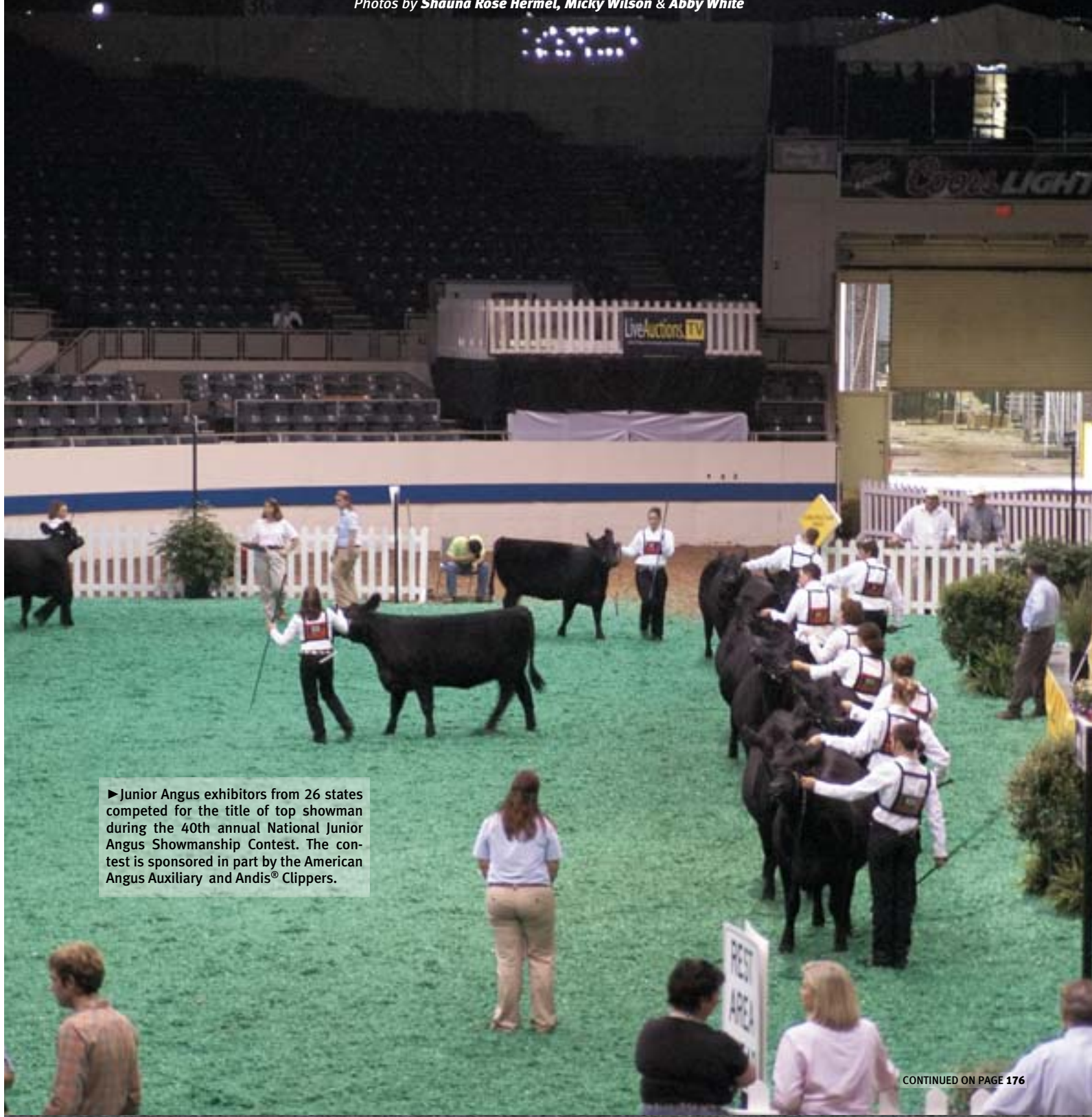


Elite Showmen

Angus Juniors claim top honors in national showmanship contest.

Story by *Shelia Stannard*

Photos by *Shauna Rose Hermel, Micky Wilson & Abby White*



► Junior Angus exhibitors from 26 states competed for the title of top showman during the 40th annual National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. The contest is sponsored in part by the American Angus Auxiliary and Andis® Clippers.

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Junior Angus exhibitors from 26 states competed for the title of top showman during the 40th annual National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest July 14-15 during the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Indianapolis, Ind. The 43 contestants first qualify at the state level and are allowed to compete at the national level only once. The contest is sponsored in part by the American Angus Auxiliary and Andis® Clippers.

Layne Armbruster, Burlington, Okla., claimed first-place honors after first being selected as one of 15 to compete in the final round. The prestigious title includes a monetary prize from the Hamilton James Memorial Fund and a silver Revere bowl — the Dean Hurlbut Award. The Jake White family also presented Armbruster with a handcrafted trophy belt buckle.

Darin Wiley, Saint Francis, Kan., captured second-place honors. Andrew Foster, Niles, Mich., won third place, and Justin Moritz, Piper City, Ill., claimed fourth. Gina Blanton, Marlow, Okla., rounded out the top five.

Each of the top five showmen received a silver Revere bowl from the Auxiliary and a monetary prize from the Hamilton James Memorial Fund, established in memory of Angus enthusiast and auctioneer Ham James.

Exhibitors do not show their own animals, but are randomly assigned heifers. They are evaluated on their skills in handling the animal, their ability to follow instructions, use of equipment, courtesy, sportsmanship and general appearance. After four preliminary rounds, 15 finalists are announced and

awarded a set of clippers from Andis.

Judges for this year's competition included Gary Dameron, Lexington, Ill.; Richie Oakes, Putnam, Okla.; and Corinne Kephart, Pleasureville, Ky.

Other competitors rounding out the top 15 include Kristen Oaks, Calhoun, La.; Chelsey Warfield, Andersonville, Tenn.; Bethany Johnson, Nokesville, Va.; Christopher Cassidy, Ancona, Ill.; Lucas Neumayr, New Richmond, Ind.; Sarah Stream, Chariton, Iowa; Joseph Burns, Oxford, Iowa; Mallory Trosper, Hamilton,

Mo.; Tiffany Bryant, Monkton, Md.; and Whitney Carr, Elwood, Ind.

Contestants receiving honorable mentions in showmanship include Michael Perez, Nara Visa, N.M.; Richelle Miller, Brandon, Fla.; Flinton McCabe, Elk City, Kan.; Andrew Uden, Elwood, Neb.; Kevin Gleason, Midlothian, Texas; Joseph Epperly, Moneta, Va.; Auston Bockelman, Napoleon, Ohio; Kyle Grim, East Berlin, Pa.; Dana May, Mineral Point, Wis.; and Jared Ayres, Lancaster, Ky.



► The top 15 finalists at the 2006 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest join contest judges at the backdrop. Pictured are (front row, from left) judge Gary Dameron, Lexington, Ill.; judge Corinne Kephart, Pleasureville, Ky.; **Chelsey Warfield**, Andersonville, Tenn.; **Whitney Carr**, Elwood, Ind.; **Layne Armbruster**, Burlington, Okla.; **Gina Blanton**, Marlow, Okla.; **Bethany Johnson**, Nokesville, Va.; **Mallory Trosper**, Hamilton, Mo.; **Kristen Oaks**, Calhoun, La.; **Tiffany Bryant**, Monkton, Md.; (back row, from left) **Lucas Neumayr**, New Richmond, Ind.; **Christopher Cassidy**, Ancona, Ill.; **Darin Wiley**, Saint Francis, Kan.; **Joseph Burns**, Oxford, Iowa; **Sarah Stream**, Chariton, Iowa; **Andrew Foster**, Niles, Mich.; **Justin Moritz**, Piper City, Ill.; and judge Richie Oakes, Putnam, Okla.



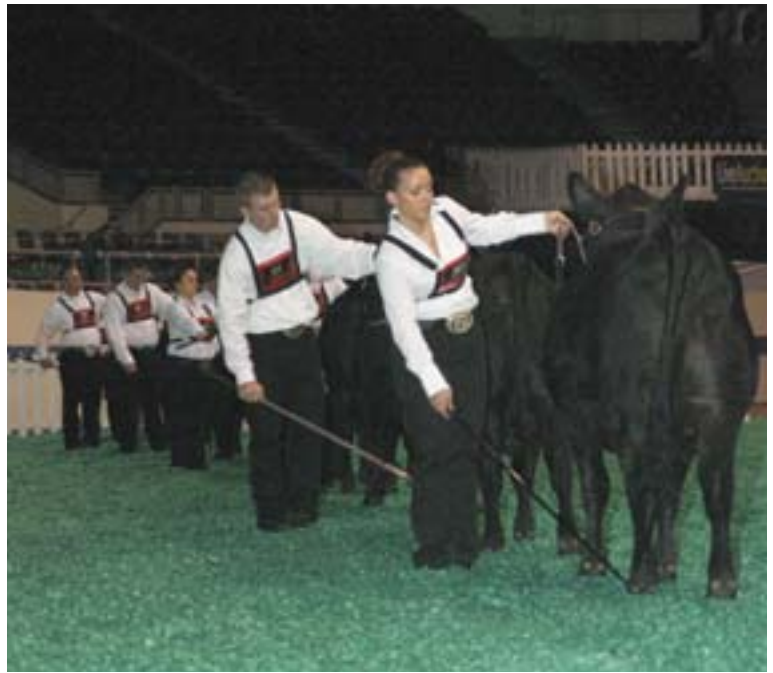
► From left, Carol Rohr, Mary Simonson and Ilene Adams present monetary prizes from the Hamilton James Memorial Fund to **Layne Armbruster**, Burlington, Okla., first; **Darin Wiley**, Saint Francis, Kan., second; **Andrew Foster**, Niles, Mich., third; **Justin Moritz**, Piper City, Ill., fourth; and **Gina Blanton**, Marlow, Okla., fifth. Each of the top five showmen also received a silver Revere bowl from the American Angus Auxiliary.



► Exhibitors receiving honorable mentions include (from left) **Kevin Gleason**, Midlothian, Texas; **Flinton McCabe**, Elk City, Kan.; **Auston Bockelman**, Napoleon, Ohio; **Michael Perez**, Nara Visa, N.M.; **Kyle Grim**, East Berlin, Pa.; **Andrew Uden**, Elwood, Neb.; **Jared Ayres**, Lancaster, Ky.; **Joseph Epperly**, Moneta, Va.; **Richelle Miller**, Brandon, Fla.; and **Dana May**, Mineral Point, Wis.



► **Above:** Serving as judges for the showmanship contest were (from left) Richie Oaks, Putnam, Okla.; Corinne Kephart, Pleasureville, Ky.; and Gary Dameron, Lexington, Ill.



► **Above:** Showmanship contestants set up their heifers, which they are randomly assigned, during the contest.



► **Left:** Camille Talbot, Plattenville, La., soothes her heifer while remaining alert during the showmanship preliminaries.



► **Above:** Mandy Jacobs, Billings, Mont., pulls her heifer into line.

► **Left:** Chelsey Warfield, Andersonville, Tenn., waits patiently for the show to start.

