

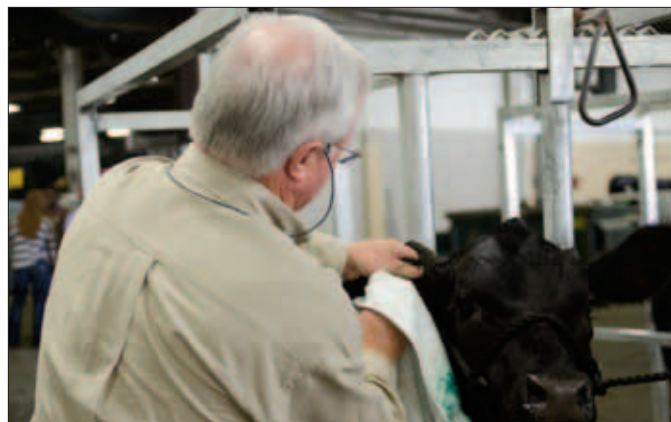
# In a League of Their Own

National Junior Angus Association members gather in Louisville, Ky., for a week of competition and fun at the National Junior Angus Show.

by *Katie Allen, Kelli Fulkerson and Kasey Miller*



►Opening ceremonies allow juniors to bond with participants from their own state and make new friends from other states. Each state displayed a state flag and wore matching shirts for the ceremony. Juniors from each state also brought donations for this year's service project to benefit the Center for Courageous Kids.



►Regional managers are integral to the show's. Here, Richard Dyar checks tattoos at check-in, one of the week's many jobs.



►To honor the Chevrolet Corvette Production Plant and Museum in Bowling Green, Ky., the NJAA Board Members enter opening ceremonies in style. The corvettes were sponsored by the River Cities Corvette Club.



►The National Junior Angus Show brings together participants of all ages.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54



## IN A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN

**In a League of Their Own** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 55



► Texas pride flies during opening ceremonies.



► The Strings of Aberdeen — comprised of retiring junior Board member Garrett Knebel and his sister, Catherine Knebel's, band — provides some fun entertainment during opening ceremonies.



► Adam McCauley, Bowling Green, Fla., enjoys the musical stylings of Strings of Aberdeen during the NJAS Opening Ceremonies.

### 2012 NJAS dedicated to Chuck Grove

It has been said that people are products of their genetics and environment. The same can be said for American Angus Association Regional Manager Chuck Grove.

Charles Whitney Grove Jr. was reared on an Angus farm nestled in the rolling meadows of central Virginia owned by his parents, Whitney and Doris Grove. As a youngster, he was active in youth programs such as 4-H and showing Angus projects at local and state fairs.

He graduated from Virginia Tech in 1974 with a degree in animal science. While at

Virginia Tech, Chuck was active in Block & Bridle and was honored as "Outstanding Senior." Chuck was also a member of the prestigious and highly successful Virginia Tech Livestock Judging Team.

Upon graduation, Chuck and his college sweetheart, Ruth Okey, were married. Soon thereafter, he accepted a position as manager of a nationally known Hereford operation in Pella, Iowa. While in that position, he learned of an American Angus Association regional manager (RM) position opening in Kentucky and

Tennessee and quickly applied for the job. Following a successful interview at the 1974 International Livestock Exposition in Chicago, Ill., Chuck was hired by the late and then-director of RMs, Jerry Morrow.

Gary Minish, one of Chuck's listed references, said, in effect, "if Chuck Grove accepts this position, he will be your best regional manager." What a prophetic statement that proved to be.

Chuck began his RM career with the American Angus Association in January 1975. Several years later, as a result of a



► Regional Manager Chuck Grove accepts his dedication and welcomes everyone to the show.



► Host state juniors form a tunnel to the stage for Grove, who was honored during opening ceremonies.





►The Strings of Aberdeen inspire dancing as junior members enjoy hearing popular songs performed by musicians they know.



►“Would you like some chocolate with that?” The Nebraska Junior Angus Association sponsors an ice cream social following opening ceremonies.

territory realignment, the state of Ohio was added to his area of responsibility. Suffice it to say, Chuck is the longest-tenured RM in the history of the purebred livestock industry, having served 37 continuous years in his original territory. In some instances, he has worked with four generations of Angus breeders.

It is impossible to summarize in writing Chuck’s illustrious Angus career. An icon in Angusdom, he has provided sound advice and direction for countless new breeders entering the business. Chuck has always remained a steadfast advocate of innovation involving a scientific approach to breed improvement, often in the face of resistance.

When faced with breeder disputes, Chuck always finds ways to provide diplomatic solutions and a way to calm the troubled waters. Perhaps one of his strongest points is his ability to work with and encourage excellence in youth. His demeanor, personal presence, industry knowledge and infectious personality have exerted an extremely beneficial influence on Angus breeders, not only in his region, but throughout the entire United States.

Chuck successfully managed several National Western Angus Bull Sales and was elected by his peers as RM representative to the American Angus Association Board of Directors. Chuck was also honored by his livestock industry peers as a member of the Livestock Marketeers Hall of Fame in 2010. His contributions to the “Angus Advance” are legendary.



►The 2012 National Junior Angus Show was dedicated to Regional Manager Chuck Grove, who has served his original territory for 37 years.

This tribute would not be complete without giving tremendous credit to Chuck’s life mate, Ruth. To paraphrase an adage, behind every good man is a better woman. While Chuck attended to his career, Ruth raised the children.

Their first-born, Jake, did the normal things a boy on a farm does. In addition, he found time to achieve All-State and unanimous All-American honors as a football player at Virginia Tech, and was awarded the Remington Trophy as the best offensive center in the nation. Jake recently retired after a successful seven-year career in the National Football League. Jake; his wife, Katie; and their 4-year-old daughter, Emma, reside in Forest, Va.

Their second-born, the absolute apple of her dad’s eye, Rachael and her husband, Douglas Dalton, also an Angus breeder, reside in Forest as well.

Thank you, Ruth, Jake and Rachael, for sharing Chuck with us. Thank you, Chuck, for your leadership, your guidance, your integrity and, most of all, for your friendship. Many are qualified for this dedication, but none are more deserving. You are a man’s man and the absolute epitome of a representative of the most prestigious breed association in the world, the American Angus Association.

— *Dedication by John Crouch*



## IN A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN

### In a League of Their Own CONTINUED FROM PAGE 55



►Creativity through photos is displayed all week through the NJAA/*Angus Journal* Photo Contest. Winners, honorable mentions and editor's picks were all revealed at the show, as were winners of the new Fan Favorite Photo Contest selected on the *Angus Journal* Facebook page. See stories on page 160 and 188.



►Many educational contests allow NJAS participation even if juniors can't attend the show. Posters, scrapbooks, photographs and videos were all submitted before the show. While some contests were evaluated in June, panels of judges evaluated the posters and scrapbooks Tuesday. See stories beginning on pages 146, 148, 156 and 160.



►Above: NJAS offers more youth development than an average cattle show. Juniors wait in the hallway with supporters before competing in the prepared and extemporaneous speaking and the career development contests. See stories beginning on pages 144 and 150.



►Right: The carcass contest allows juniors to learn about and be rewarded for raising quality steers. Steers were taken to the harvesting facility Monday evening. See story on page 76.



►The NJAS serves as a vacation for many families. Downtime is used to make new friends and strengthen old friendships.



►Downtime in the barn also serves as family time. Here, Dylan Darbonne takes on his grandfather Paul Darbonne of Louisiana in a game of checkers.





► Juniors compete in the livestock judging contest Tuesday, evaluating two heifer classes, a bull class and a steer class. They also estimated the weight of a steer and answered a set of questions to test their recall.



► Junior members test their ability to evaluate livestock during the livestock judging contest.



► Herdsmanship judges evaluate stalls throughout the week. As they explain in the story beginning on page 94, the judges like to see juniors doing the work. Here, Abigail Allen brushes her heifer in the Georgia stalls.



► Carly and Cory Watt, Iva, S.C., make their final selections during the livestock judging contest.



► A lot of work goes into making an animal look its very best. It all starts in the wash rack with a clean animal.



► The Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® Cook-Off took place Tuesday. Teams created a recipe of their choice in categories including steaks, roasts and other beef items. See story on page 192.



► **Left:** The first-place overall intermediate roast division champions from Louisiana serve up their CAB® Dynasty Sauce Piquante.

► **Below:** Juniors from Louisiana play a quick game of hillbilly golf in between showing cattle and competing in contests.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58



► Cook-Off teams create skits to educate consumers about the CAB® brand in a fun way before presenting their recipe to judges.





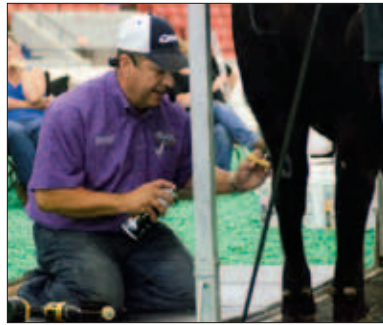


# IN A LEAGUE OF OUR OWN

## In a League of Their Own CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57



►“All roads lead to Nebraska” is a part of this state’s stall display.



►Above: Kirk Stierwalt presents a demonstration workshop on fitting cattle Tuesday.



►Pfizer interns present to juniors information about genetics and genomic opportunities in beef cattle during workshops Tuesday.

►Below: Lydell Meier from Stock Show University hosts junior members at a showmanship clinic Tuesday.



►Elected voting delegates from each state attend the candidate-delegate dinner Tuesday evening to learn more about each of the 12 candidates running for the NJAA Board of Directors.

►Right: Meghan Blythe helps a young contestant fill out his entry form correctly in the written portion of the quiz bowl contest Wednesday evening.



►Members of the junior Board perform many tasks during the week, including announcing results of classes. They still find time to have some fun.



►The panel of judges evaluates showmen in four heats during the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest Thursday to narrow the field to the 15 finalists who competed Saturday. See story on page 78.



►Team members present their animal to a panel of judges in the Team Sales Contest Wednesday.





►**Right:** Melissa Keyes takes a few moments to prepare for her chance to compete in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. She shares a quote by Sven Goran Eriksson that she uses for inspiration: “The greatest barrier to success is the fear of failure.”



►**Left:** Illinois quiz bowl contestants prepare for their first round of the competition in the finals Thursday night.



►**Below:** Two members of the winning Kansas sales team take their prizes back to their seats during the awards ceremony Friday.



►Delegates vote Friday during the NJAS to elect six new members to the NJAA Board of Directors.



►The Team Fitting Contest pairs older members with younger members on four-person teams to fit a calf to the best of their ability with in 30 minutes.



►American Angus Association CEO Bryce Schumann and Regional Managers Radale Tiner and Will Mayfield marvel at the successful NJAA members during the award ceremony. See “At the Backdrop” on page 214.



►Retiring Board members congratulate newly elected NJAA Board members after the revelation of new officers Friday night at the award ceremony. See story on page 138.

►**Right:** Appreciation of Angus cattle starts at an early age.



►Angus enthusiasts peruse the Angus Foundation Silent Auction area, the proceeds of which contribute to the Foundation’s efforts benefiting youth, education and research. See story on page 222.