

# The Spirit of Stock Show

Events at the National Western Stock Show hold strong in its 110th year.

Story & photos by *Jena McReil*, digital editor



Nothing quite compares to starting the year at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo. The western city's livestock heritage comes alive for 16 days each January, and livestock enthusiasts travel from across the nation to participate in one of the industry's most competitive events.

The Angus breed is no exception. Exhibitors presented their cattle during the American Angus Association's Super-Point Roll of Victory (ROV) Bull and Female Shows, the Junior Angus Heifer Show, the National Western Angus Bull Sale, and the Angus carload and pen competitions down in the Yards. Known as the "Super Bowl of

Livestock Events," the NWSS is one that participants look forward to year-round, and its showmen select one from among their ranks to be recognized as Herdsman of the Year. For ROV show results, turn to page 86. For a profile on this year's recognized herdsman, see page 92.

In addition to showing competition, the National Western provides excellent marketing opportunities. Angus breeders and commercial cattlemen line the aisles of the historic stockyards, looking at cattle and comparing notes. The American Angus Association hosts its annual National Western Angus Bull Sale, the only one of its

kind managed by the organization, each January. Consignors from California to Maryland traveled with their bulls to participate in the elite Angus sale. Read more in the feature story on page 126.

Down in the Yards at the NWSS, a competition takes place that stands apart from the rest. Nowhere in the country can you attend an Angus carload-and-pen show, except for Denver. Since the NWSS began in 1906, cattlemen have been exhibiting cattle in groups to showcase consistency and quality. The show continues to be a mainstay today, and the Angus breed expanded the show in

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► Shown by Kimeric DeLashmutt of the K Bar D Ranch, Redmond, Ore., the grand champion enters the arena during the National Western Angus Bull Sale.



► Denver's historic stockyards come alive during the 16 days of the National Western Stock Show.

# stern Stock Show



PHOTO BY JOSH COMMINELLIS

► For many individuals and families, it's tradition to start the year in Denver.



PHOTO BY JOSH COMMINELLIS

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► An impressive showing of Angus bulls competed in the sale show and the ROV competition.



► The judge selects the ROV reserve grand champion Angus bull, led by Chase Anderson of Double Diamond Angus, Chrisman, Ill.



► The 2016 Angus Foundation Heifer Package resulted in the second-highest offering in the fundraiser's history.



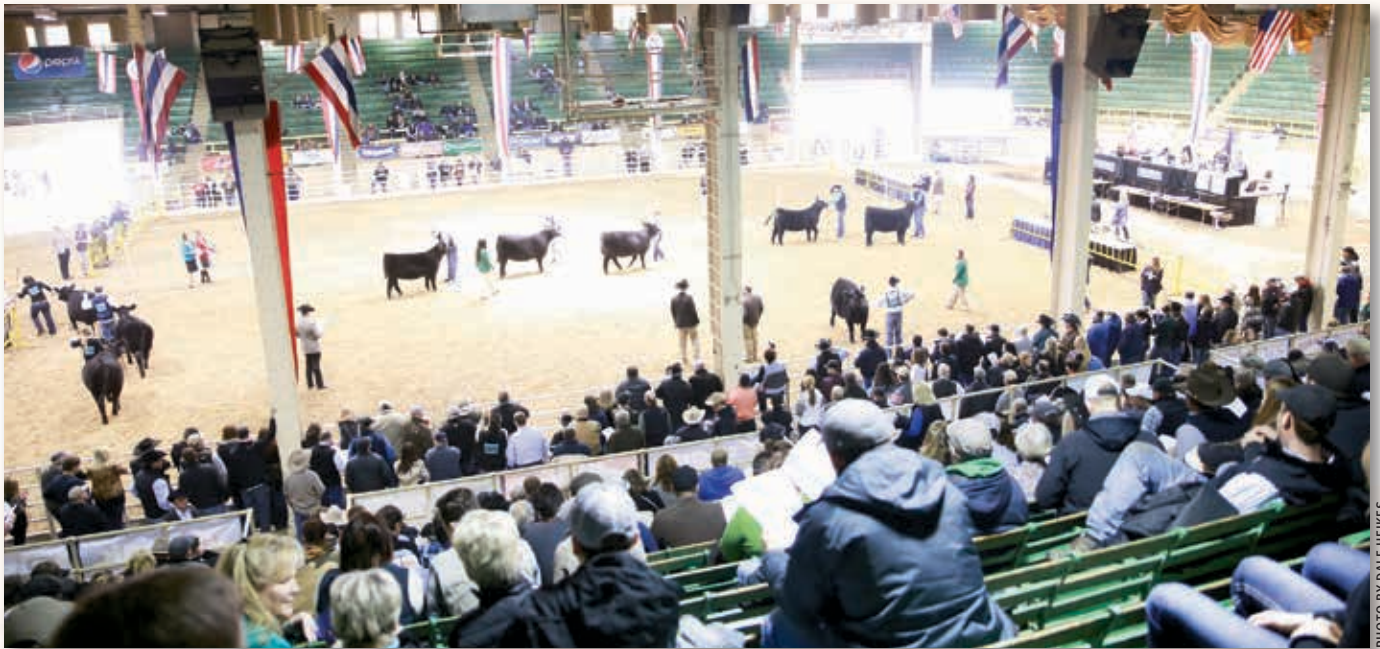


PHOTO BY DALE HEIKES



► Jeff Dameron (right) and Chris Cassidy judged the ROV Angus Bull and Female Shows.



PHOTO BY JOSH COMMINGELLIS

► With a steady hand, Paul Hill of Bidwell, Ohio, presents a Champion Hill female during the ROV show.



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2016 to include the Heifer Pen Show. The competition was impressive, and the Association looks forward to the show's future years. Follow along with exhibitor Bear Mountain Angus on page 120.

Believe it or not, the National Western isn't all about the livestock.

It's a meeting place of people with common goals, a lively display of Western tradition for Denver residents and a place for children to experience farm animals firsthand. More than 800 local volunteers share their time welcoming guests and providing directions and friendly smiles.

Each year, second graders from Denver schools are invited to the NWSS for a chance to explore the show and learn more about agriculture. As Angus cattle are parading around Stadium Arena, they are often greeted with smiles and laughter from the school children.

The 2016 National Western finished strong, with the second-highest overall attendance in stock-show history. Nearly 687,000 visitors entered the complex and enjoyed the events and activities surrounding the NWSS. That's an increase of more than 4,000 visitors from the year prior.

The next century of the National Western will bring new facilities, traditions and continued record attendance, as the NWSS starts on plans for a reimagined grounds and new stock-show facilities. Check out what's in store on page 148, and make plans to see the Denver transformation as it takes place over the next decade.

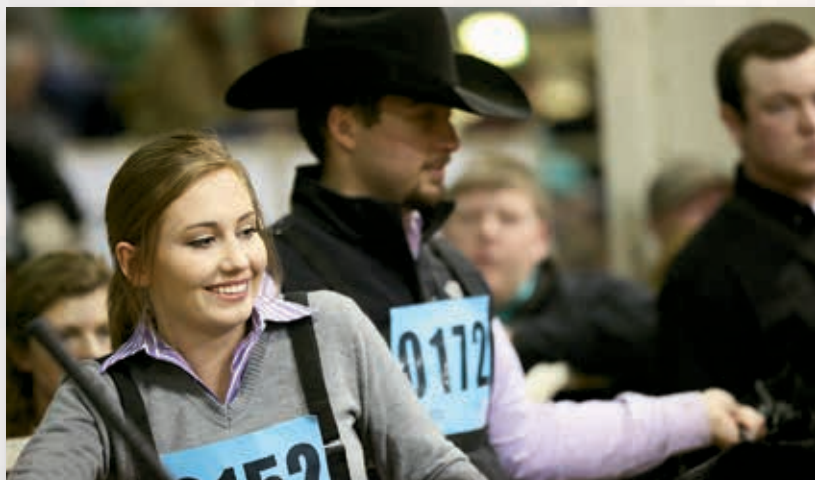
When walking up the Hill to the show barn, attendees hear trains rumbling their way through the stockyards. Looking toward the Rocky Mountains in the horizon, it is definitely clear — it's time for stock show.



► Esther McCabe, Elk City, Kan., led the reserve grand champion female of the Junior Angus Heifer Show.



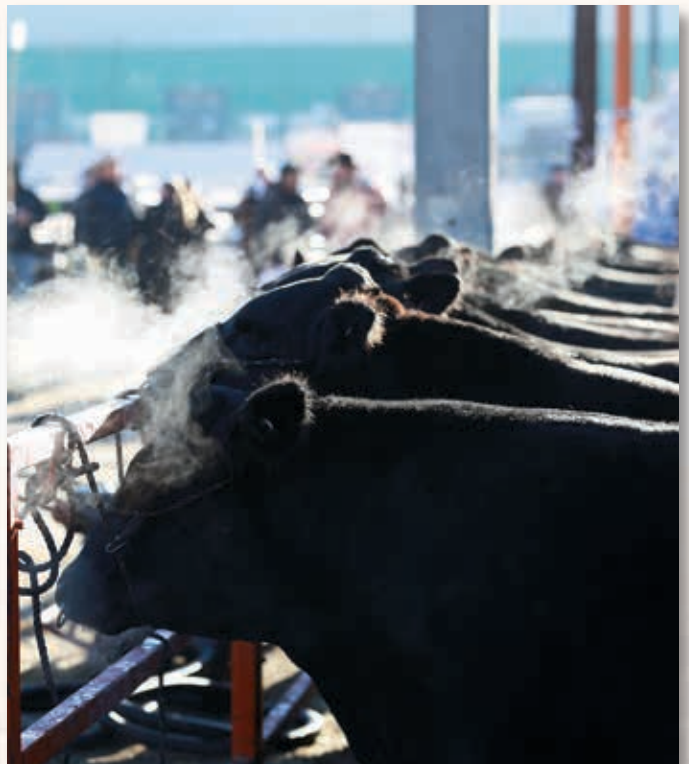
► Serious showman Austin Nowatzke of Michigan City, Ind., participated in the ROV and junior show.



► Left and above: Brad Winegardner, Lima, Ohio, shares his evaluations with the crowd during champion selections for the Junior Angus Heifer Show, where junior members exhibited more than 200 entries.



► Heavy steam escaped with each breath as cattle lined up in the Yards for the carload and pen competitions.



► Cattlemen study performance data before the next pen of three enters the arena.



► Left and above: Angus Night on the Mountain, hosted at Spruce Mountain Ranch in Larkspur, Colo., earned a record \$91,400 to support Angus education, youth and research.