

# Christmas Is Coming

With the National Junior Angus Show just around the corner, it's time to consider which contests and activities you want to take part in.

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**Y**ou better watch out. You better not cry. You better not pout. I'm telling you why," this year Christmas comes in July. While there will be sun instead of snow, and you might get a few funny looks for singing "Jingle Bells," the spirit of Christmas will embark upon Des Moines, Iowa, for this year's National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

While this is a great opportunity to show your cattle at a national level, it's also a great opportunity to participate in the many contests, meetings and events throughout the week. The following overview presents descriptions of opportunities for you to get involved in this year's event. Each competition has three divisions based on the participant's age as of Jan. 1, 2008 — junior, ages 9-13; intermediate, ages 14-17; and senior, ages 18-21.

All entries should be the contestant's own work and cannot have been presented at a previous NJAS.

While the following descriptions provide an overview of the contests, they do not contain all the rules relative to each contest. Please visit [www.njaa.info/njaa\\_contests.html](http://www.njaa.info/njaa_contests.html) and [www.njas.info](http://www.njas.info) for additional information rules, tips and deadlines.

## The Cook-Off

Fire up the grill and get ready to cook! The Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off will let both

juniors and adults compete to show what they can do with beef.

This year the contest returns to its birthplace to celebrate its 25th anniversary. The very first Cook-Off was conducted at the 1983 NJAS in Des Moines. Among the

unique features of this year's Cook-

Off celebration will be a return to

its roots, with the contest

featuring only fresh meat

cookery. A special division

for alumni of the very first

competition will also be a

highlight of this year's

Cook-Off. For more

about the 25th

anniversary, see "Auxiliary

Notes" on page 36.

All entries in the contest

require beef in the recipe. The

participants will

be evaluated on

showmanship

(presentation

of the dish) and

recipe (taste of

the dish) within

separate competitions.

Each state association

may enter one junior team

per age group. Mixed-age-group teams are

allowed, but will compete in the age division

of the oldest competitor. Anyone older than

21 wanting to participate may enter the adult

category as either a team or as an individual.

There is no limit to teams or individuals in

the adult category.

Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) will

provide CAB product requested with recipes.

Each individual team must provide all of the

other ingredients. Also being provided will be

a refrigerator for the beef, a grill and

microwave. Any other cooking units may be

used, but contestants will have to bring their



own. All participants are asked to fill out the method of cooking on the entry recipe.

Since this is a fun event, contestants are encouraged to pick a theme and have some fun with it. Dress and serve with the same theme.

Showmanship, recipe and overall winners will be named for each age group in each meat competition. The Black Kettle Award, given in memory of Paul St. Blanc, will be presented to the single highest-placing team among all age groups. In addition, the Pat Grote LEAD Award will be presented to the winning team members in the intermediate division of the fresh meat competition.

Teams and recipes are due June 1. For more information contact Anne Patton Schubert at 502-477-2663. You can fax your entry to her at 502-477-2637.

## Photography contest

A good way to get ready for "Christmas in July" is to have your "Christmas cards" or photography contest entries done. The photography contest winners of each age category will be published along with other NJAS coverage in the *Angus Journal* and archived with editor's picks as stock photos for potential later use. All entries will be displayed during the NJAS.

There are four contest categories: Angus cattle, landscapes, people, and around the farm or ranch. Contestants can enter one picture per category, with a maximum of four entries per contestant.

Once you've got your photograph, you need to have it enlarged to an 8×10-inch (in.) color or black-and-white print and mount it on a 10×14-in. black foam core board. The entry form then needs to be mounted to the back of the foam core in the upper left-hand corner. If you are sending in digital photographs, the original digital file must accompany the printed photo. For juniors who are sending in more than one entry per family, please submit only one CD/DVD per family, organizing each junior's entries in a separate folder. Check the official rules published in the February and March issues of the *Angus Journal* for quality and size requirements.

Judging will be based 60% on creativity, communication power and composition of the photograph and 40% on the technical quality of the photo, such as proper light exposure, true color, sharp focus and correct cropping.

Angus Productions Inc. (API) will provide premiums for the contests. Winners in each age group will receive \$30 for first place, \$20 for second place and \$10 for third place.

**Entries must be mailed to the Junior Activities Department of the American**

**Angus Association with a postmark no later than June 1.**

### Graphic design contest

If you're looking for another way to get creative, the graphic design contest allows juniors to use their computer designing skills to promote the Angus breed and activities. The 2008 Graphic Design Contest entry theme is to design a one-page magazine advertisement promoting the state officer training conference, Raising the Bar.

The scoring for this event will be based on a 50-point scale. Ten points will be possible for each of the following categories: originality, message, ability to attract attention, and use of space and design. A panel of three judges will total their scores and rank the entries in numerical order based on their score. Judges will then compile their rankings (not scores) to determine the winners.

Prizes for the contest will be given to the top contestants in each age category. Provided by Fair Oaks Farm of Arkansas, the premiums for the contest include \$50 for first place, \$30 for second place and \$20 for third place. **Entries must be postmarked by June 1, and mailed to the Association's Junior Activities Department.**

### Writing contest

The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Writing Contest provides entrants with another possible opportunity to get their work published in the *Angus Journal*. Each age division (junior, intermediate and senior) will have a different topic and word length requirement, but all entries should be typed, double-spaced and in 12-point type.

This year's junior division topic is "Tell a story about your favorite farm memory." Entries should be between 300 and 500 words. Junior entries can also be printed in ink and double-spaced.

The intermediate division topic is "Predict how your Angus network will impact your

### Mentor-protégé program

The National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) Mentoring Program is an opportunity for junior Angus members to utilize their experience at the NJAS to assist first-time exhibitors at this event.

**Mentors should be junior members 14 years or older who have attended at least two previous NJAS. Mentors must have time to check on their protégés at least once a day during the event.**

**Protégés can be first- or second-time exhibitors at the NJAS who indicate they would like to have a mentor for the week.**

**There is a box on the entry forms to check if you would like to be a mentor or a protégé. Pairings will be assigned prior to the event and revealed at check-in. The Mentoring Mixer is currently scheduled for 3:30 p.m., Monday, July 14.**

personal growth." Intermediate entries should be 600-800 words and must be typed.

The senior division topic is "Develop an entertaining skit involving 12 characters that teaches a positive life lesson." Senior entries should be 1,800-2,000 words and must be typed.

Each contestant's entry should be accompanied with a cover page and a clean disk containing the document. The cover page needs to have the junior member's name, address, phone number, birth date, member code and word count. The contestant's name shouldn't be anywhere else on the entry.

Judging will be based on a 50-point scale and scored on grammar, spelling, organization and content. If an entry is either too long or too short, points will be deducted. Judges will then rank the contestants, similar to the judging in the graphic design contest. Prizes for each age category will be \$50 for first place, \$30 for second place and \$20 for third place. If space permits, winning entries may be published in the *Angus Journal*.

**Writing contest entries must be mailed to the Junior Activities Department and postmarked by June 1.**

### Poster contest

Do you have an idea that you think would improve the Angus breed or your own cattle herd? Put it on a poster where everyone can see it.

The poster contest has three categories: breed/association promotion, membership recruitment and herd advertisement. Breed promotion entries should highlight the value of Angus cattle in a successful enterprise or the benefits of active membership in an Angus association. Membership recruitment entries should focus on developing and illustrating ideas and themes to recruit new members into the NJAA and/or your own state association. And, herd advertisement entries should create a print advertisement suitable for promotion of your own herd or a fictitious (but realistic) herd situation.

On the back of the poster in the upper left-hand corner, contestants should put their full name, address, member code, age and the category in which the poster is being entered. Each poster must be 14x22 in. It is also suggested that each poster be laminated or covered with clear contact paper. Posters cannot have computer-generated graphics or designs; any that do will be disqualified. Please use photographs, magazine clippings, stencils and adhesive letters. Any questions as to whether an entry includes computer-generated graphics will be left to the judges' discretion.

Judging will be by a three-member panel and based on 50 points maximum. The posters will then be ranked. Prizes and cash awards will be presented to the winners in each age category. Prizes are \$30 for first place, \$20 for second place and \$10 for third place. A top poster will be named in each age division.

**Entries should be turned in at the show, though the contestant need not attend to**

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participate. See page 139 of this month's *Angus Journal* for the NJAS schedule providing the deadline for submitting posters.

### Prepared public speaking

The prepared public speaking contest is a little different from the other contests; there are four age divisions: junior, ages 9-13; intermediate I, ages 14-15; intermediate II, ages 16-17; and senior, ages 18-21. There will be prizes awarded for each division.

The junior and intermediate divisions may speak on any subject about Angus cattle or the beef industry. The senior division is assigned a topic selected by the NJAA Board. This year's senior topic is "Explain the impact biofuels have on the beef industry."

**Contestants must submit a title page and a typewritten, double-spaced outline of their speech on 8½×11-in. white paper to the Junior Activities Department with a postmark no later than June 10.**

Speeches in the junior division should be four to six minutes in length, and the intermediate and senior speeches should be between six and eight minutes. If the contestant goes over or under the time requirement, there will be a half-point deduction for every 10 seconds in either direction. Judges will give contestants a one-minute warning at that point in their speech. After the speech, each contestant will be allowed up to five minutes to answer questions from judges.

Judges will award up to 50 points for each entry, with 20% based on organization and content, 20% on language and delivery, 20% on presentation, 20% on total effectiveness and 20% on response to questions. Scores will then be added and ranked.

The prizes will be \$125 for first place, \$100 for second place and \$75 for third place. The senior division also has a special award sponsored by the *Angus Journal*. The top three placing seniors will receive college

scholarships in the amount of \$1,000, \$750 and \$500 for first, second and third place, respectively.

### Extemporaneous public speaking

The extemporaneous contest allows members to show their industry knowledge on the spot. The age divisions are the same as the prepared public speaking, but participants do not find out their topics until the contest begins.

Participants will draw three speech topics, selected at random, relating to the agricultural industry and/or the Angus breed, and then choose the topic they would like to address. Junior division contestants will then have 20 minutes to prepare, while the intermediate and senior contestants get 30 minutes. Reference materials will be allowed, but must be approved by the NJAA Board.

Each speech must be at least two minutes and no longer than six. After the speech, the judges will have three minutes to ask questions. Participants are penalized the same way they are in the prepared speech contest if they are over or under the time limit. After questions, each contestant will be evaluated and ranked.

Winners will receive \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place. The senior division winner will receive an award from the American Angus Auxiliary

presented in the name of Richard "Dick" Spader, and the winners of the two intermediate divisions will receive an award in the name of Pat Grote.

### Team sales

The team sales competition will put members in a situation where communication, teamwork and marketing are all essential to sell their animal to the judges. It's important that pedigree information, performance information and visual characteristics be discussed during the competition.

Each state may enter only one team in each of three age categories, including 9-13; 14-17; and 18-21. Teammates of differing age groups may compete together but will be entered according to the age group of the oldest member. New this year, teams may have either three or four members. It is important to have your team selected early because teams must sign up during the registration period.

The senior division will be given a complete scenario the day of the registration. From there the team must select its own animal and provide a pedigree to match the scenario. It doesn't have to be the pedigree of the animal, but it does need to match the situation.

All teams need to select a bull, heifer or cow-calf pair (for seniors, this depends on the scenario) that is clean — not groomed. There will be no show halters or grooming supplies allowed into the competition area. It is also very important to bring three copies of the registration certificate with you. Points will be deducted if there are not three copies.

Each team is allowed to bring in a sales package of performance data, pictures and show records for each judge. They will then have five to eight minutes to present to the judges, with each team member expected to speak during the presentation. Anything



above or below the time limit will be penalized. Judges will not interrupt during the presentation but will have three minutes to ask questions following the presentation's conclusion.

There is a 50-point maximum, with 10 points each available for content, ability to communicate, team organization, overall effect, and knowledge and response to questions. Winning teams will receive the following premiums for their state junior associations: \$75 for first, \$50 for second and \$25 for third place. The team winning the senior division also captures the Bob Laflin Memorial Award.

### Team fitting

Team fitting requires members to work together with different ages to groom their animal. The contest requires four contestants — one from the junior, intermediate and senior divisions, and an additional team member from any of the three divisions. Each state association may enter only one team. Teams must be signed up at registration, so have yours picked early.

The teams will be responsible for providing their own electricity, chute, fitting equipment, and a bull, heifer or steer that should be washed and dried — but not groomed. Once the contest begins, no team member may leave the area and no additional supplies may be brought into the fitting area.

Teams will have 20 minutes to fit their animal. During that time, each team member must fit a leg, use the clippers and the blower. All fitting and grooming techniques must be within accepted practices for American Angus Association-sponsored shows. At the end of 20 minutes, contestants will stand at the head of their animal until the judges get to them. Judges will likely ask one question per team member.

The judges award points as follows: ability to fit, 25 points; organization of supplies and equipment, 5 points; participation of each team member, 10 points; overall effect, 5 points; and knowledge and response to questions, 5 points. Judges will then rank teams based on scores. The state junior associations of the winning teams will receive premiums of \$75 for first place, \$50 for second and \$25 for third.

### Quiz bowl

The quiz bowl competition will test junior members' knowledge with written and verbal questions. Teams, divided by age division, will consist of four members. The age classification for the team will be determined by the age of the oldest team member, and states may sign up as many teams as they desire. Multiple-state teams may enter, but state teams must be filled before individuals are permitted to participate in a multi-state team. Mixed state teams are not eligible for sweepstake points.

The two-part contest begins with the written round. There are 50 questions on each test, plus five bonus questions that are only used to break ties. During the contest, only team members are allowed in the testing area, and they are not allowed to collaborate. If a contestant is caught cheating at any point in the competition, they — along with their team — will be disqualified.

The top eight teams in each age division will then advance to the verbal round. The verbal round is a single-elimination tournament that draws teams randomly. The verbal round is divided into two sections. The first section is a one-on-one round, where team members go head-to-head against other participants from other teams. The quizmaster will ask one question, and only team member 1 for each team may answer. On the next question, only team member 2 for each team may answer and so

on until each team member has been asked a total of two questions.

The second section of the verbal round consists of 10 toss-up questions worth 10 points each. Any team member may answer, but they must buzz in. If a question is correctly answered, the team is awarded 10 points and gets a chance at a bonus question worth a maximum of 10 points; if the answer to the initial question is incorrect, the other team will have an opportunity to answer. At the conclusion of the match, a 25-point bonus will be awarded if all four team members have answered questions correctly.

The team that makes it through the bracket wins. Winners will be selected in all three age categories, and state associations will receive premiums of \$75 for first place, \$50 for second place and \$25 for third place.

### Scrapbook

Any state or regional junior Angus association may enter a scrapbook into the competition. The scrapbook's cover should incorporate the association's name and be creative. There should also be a theme that is carried throughout the book.

Scrapbooks must be created by the state's current junior association members. The book should begin with a title page, followed by a contents page. The rest of the pages should be numbered and include in any order: junior officers, representatives, members and advisors; meetings and activities; shows; displays; games; parties and work sessions; communications such as newsletters; and honors won by members throughout the year.

Each category should be arranged in a calendar sequence, oldest to most recent, starting with July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. Scrapbooks will be judged on content, organization, neatness, effectiveness of layout and general effect. For a complete list of

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Scrapbook contest



Judging contest



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items considered by the scrapbook judges, please look at the official rules found at [www.njaa.info/contests/scrapbook\\_rules.pdf](http://www.njaa.info/contests/scrapbook_rules.pdf). Winning entries will receive \$50 for first place; \$40 for second; \$30 for third; \$20 for fourth and \$10 for fifth.

### State herdsmanship

The herdsman contest is the ultimate test in teamwork. It requires you to work with each 'team' member of your state. The contest is divided into five categories: 61 head or more, 46 to 60 head, 31 to 45 head, 16 to 30, and those with 15 or fewer head.

The scoring is based on the following:

- ▶ 30% aisle and bedding — cleanliness, general appearance;
- ▶ 30% animals — clean, groomed, general appearance;
- ▶ 10% equipment appearance — attractive, well-arranged, general appearance;
- ▶ 20% youth tending cattle — neat, knowledgeable, friendly, teamwork and enthusiasm; and
- ▶ 10% promotion of state, association, Angus or beef — general appearance.

Awards are given to the top five in all divisions and are \$125 for first place; \$100 for second place; \$75 for third; \$50 for fourth and \$25 for fifth.

### Showmanship

The showmanship contest is designed to discover the best of the best in the showing. It's also an opportunity for younger members to watch and learn from the best junior showmen in the country. The showmanship competition is limited to two contestants from each state or province. **Entries need to be submitted by the state association to the Junior Activities Department at the Association no later than June 1.** It should also be mentioned that any contestant who has ever participated in previous NJAS

### NJAA aluminum tabs project

There was an addition to the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) last year that didn't need a slot in the schedule or take much preparation. Juniors and their families collected more than 14 pounds (lb.) of pop tabs, totaling approximately 18,500 tabs, to be donated to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Oklahoma City, Okla. Each state was given a collection bag for the week, and states also brought additional containers in which they had collected tabs throughout the year.

This was the first community service project at the NJAS in many years, and it proved to be a great success!

The Oklahoma City Ronald McDonald House was very appreciative of our help in their efforts to help children and their families during the child's stay in the hospital. They wanted to be sure to thank everyone who donated and were excited to hear this project would be continued for the years to come in order to benefit families around the country.

In 2008 we plan to continue this project, with the hope that the states will challenge their junior members to make this a year-round project. Make sure to save all your aluminum pop tabs and tabs from other beverages that come in aluminum cans, and then bring them with you to the NJAS in Des Moines this summer. Through your efforts we hope to make a sizable contribution to the Ronald McDonald House charity in Iowa.

— by Dana May and James Fisher



showmanship competitions is not eligible.

Contestants will use heifers provided by exhibitors at the NJAS. Heifers are to be groomed by the owner, not the contestant. Contestants will then draw for the animal they will show. Preliminary rounds will not exceed 15 contestants in any one class.

Judges will be looking at skill, handling and response of the animal to the contestant, use of the equipment by contestant, general appearance of the contestant, showing courtesy and sportsmanship, and the ability to follow instructions during the contest.

The top five winners of the contest will receive a silver Revere bowl. Premiums will be awarded as \$350 for first place, \$250 for second place, \$175 for third, \$125 for fourth, \$100 for fifth, and \$75 for sixth and remaining placing. The top showman will be presented the Dean Hurlbut award and the Jake White Award.

### Sweepstakes

The overall sweepstakes contest is divided into two divisions based on number of head — those with fewer than 30 head checked in, and those with more than 30 head checked in. Points will be given based on the placings of the individuals or teams that have participated. Points are given for the highest-placing individual, team or animal from each state in various contest categories. Visit [www.njaa.info/njaa\\_contests.html](http://www.njaa.info/njaa_contests.html) for sweepstakes points awarded in each contests.

### Other contests and events

**Judging contest.** The judging contest will be conducted this year. Rules of the competition will be posted to the NJAS web site, [www.njas.info](http://www.njas.info).

**Newspaper staff.** *The Scoop* newspaper is once again looking for reporters, writers and photographers. The newspaper is compiled by junior Angus members with assistance and guidance of ag communications professionals who volunteer their time and expertise.

An application form to join the newspaper staff is available on [www.njas.info](http://www.njas.info) (click "The Scoop"). The form is designed to give the managing team some insight on how best to use participants' talents as they make assignments.

Applicants should be junior Angus members who have completed their freshman year of high school. They need not attend the NJAS to be a part of *The Scoop* staff.

For a preview of the 2008 NJAS, including a tentative schedule, see pages 138-139.

