



Competing on the Grid

Carcass steer contest gives youth real-world experience.

Story & feature photo by *Julie White*

The carcass competition at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) provides a contest outside of the showing and offers real-world marketing experience. This year, 36 participants loaded 47 steers on the semi truck to see how the animals would perform on the rail from a carcass perspective.

Ethan McCabe, Elk City, Kan., owned the grand champion carcass steer. Sired by Mytty In Focus, the steer had a live weight of 1,080 pounds (lb.) and a carcass weight of 677 lb., resulting in a dressing percentage of 62.69. The steer had a ribeye area of 13.5 square inches (sq. in.), a yield grade (YG) of 1.9 and a quality grade (QG) of average Choice. The steer qualified for the *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) brand.

"I like to see how my cattle grade compared to other breeders," says McCabe, who raised the champion carcass steer. Throughout the nine years of participation in the contest, he has learned that a breeder cannot rely on appearance alone to

determine performance of a market steer once out of the pasture or feedlot.

"Sometimes the best-looking animal can be the poorest grading," he notes. McCabe says he plans to use the premium money he earned to help pay for college.

Hannah McCabe, Elk City, Kan., entered

the reserve champion carcass steer. Sired by Schurrtop MC 2500, the steer had a live weight of 1,085 lb., a carcass weight of 693 lb., and a dressing percentage of 63.87. The steer posted a ribeye area of 13.7 sq. in. and YG 2.02. It also qualified for the CAB brand with a quality grade of average Choice.



PHOTOS BY AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

► **Above:** The NJAS carcass contest provides real-world marketing experience outside the showing. Thirty-six participants competed with 47 steers to see how their animals would perform from a carcass perspective.

► From left, Curtis Long presents carcass contest awards to **Ethan McCabe**, first, and **Hannah McCabe**, second, both of Elk City, Kan.; **Myciah McCole**, Baxter Springs, Kan., third and sixth; **Mark Mitteness**, Ada, Minn., fifth; **Samuel Rucker**, Burdett, Kan., seventh; **Tanner Rayl**, Hutchinson, Kan., eighth; **Glen Mommsen**, De Witt, Iowa, ninth; and **Courtney Jentz**, Fennimore, Wis., tenth. Not pictured is **Jessica Jallo** of Fordville, N.D., fourth.

Juniors from Kansas claimed grand champion state carcass group. Mycah McColm, Baxter Springs, and Samuel Rucker, Burdett, owned the animals in the winning group.

Glen Mommsen, De Witt, and Kyle Musfeldt, Coon Rapids, owned the reserve champion state carcass group from Iowa.

The carcass steer contest was established in 1985 as an educational effort to increase awareness to junior Angus members of the important role Angus cattle have in the beef industry.

Cash prizes are supported by the Briarwood Angus Farm—Curtis and Ann Long Endowment Fund. Cash prizes are

given to the top 10 entries, and \$50 awards are given to all other qualifying entries. This year 24 carcasses met CAB standards and received an additional 25% in premiums.



► Iowa juniors **Kyle Musfeldt** (left), Coon Rapids, and **Glen Mommsen**, De Witt, won reserve grand champion state carcass group.



► Kansas juniors winning grand champion state carcass group are **Mycah McColm** (left), Baxter Springs, and **Samuel Rucker**, Burdett.



► Siblings **Ethan McCabe** (center) and **Hannah McCabe** (right), both of Elk City, Kan., claimed grand champion and reserve grand champion carcass steers, respectively. Curtis Long, Briarwood Angus Farms, presents the awards. Long and his wife, Ann, established a permanent endowment fund through the Angus Foundation to support the carcass steer contest annually.

Table 1: Carcass data on the top 20 placing steers in the 2008 NJAS Carcass Contest

Contestant	Entry No.	Live Wt., lb.	HCW, lb.	Dressing %	Fat, in.	REA, sq. in.	Marbling Score	KPH, %	QG	YG	CAB®	Final index	Final rank
Ethan McCabe	49	1,080	677	62.69	0.30	13.5	MT ⁵⁰	2.0	CH ⁰	1.90	Yes	113.34	1
Hannah McCabe	43	1,085	693	63.87	0.35	13.7	MT ⁵⁰	2.0	CH ⁰	2.02	Yes	112.80	2
Mycah McColm	50	1,130	689	60.97	0.35	14.0	MT ⁵⁰	3.0	CH ⁰	2.11	Yes	111.45	3
Jessica Jallo	28	1,220	813	66.64	0.40	14.4	MT ¹⁰	2.0	CH ⁰	2.38	Yes	108.22	4
Ryan Mitteness	46	1,100	714	64.91	0.55	12.4	SL AB ³⁰	2.0	PR-	3.02	Yes	106.16	5
Mycah McColm	47	1,240	796	64.19	0.30	13.5	MT ⁷⁰	2.5	CH ⁰	2.45	Yes	105.74	6
Samuel Rucker	20	1,165	732	62.83	0.25	12.8	MT ²⁰	2.5	CH ⁰	2.31	Yes	105.08	7
Tanner Rayl	23	1,105	671	60.72	0.30	13.8	SM ⁶⁰	3.0	CH-	1.98	No	102.01	8
Glen Mommsen	40	1,310	864	65.95	0.30	14.5	MT ⁵⁰	2.5	CH ⁰	2.39	Yes	100.66	9
Courtney Jentz	07	1,315	862	65.55	0.30	14.4	MT ²⁰	2.5	CH ⁰	2.42	Yes	100.46	10
Kyle Musfeldt	39	1,320	858	65.00	0.45	14.8	MT ⁰	2.0	CH ⁰	2.55	Yes	100.04	11
Kyle Musfeldt	37	1,290	826	64.03	0.55	14.5	MD ⁵⁰	3.5	CH+	3.07	Yes	99.94	12
Jacob Coon	31	1,305	832	63.75	0.60	15.5	MT ⁰	2.0	CH ⁰	2.60	Yes	99.58	13
Jason Jallo	38	1,145	774	67.60	0.50	15.2	SM ⁸⁰	2.5	CH-	2.33	No	99.56	14
Kateland Rick	32	1,305	832	63.75	0.40	14.6	SM ⁷⁰	1.5	CH-	2.29	No	99.08	15
Bailey Quam	26	1,260	774	61.43	0.30	13.9	SM ⁴⁰	2.5	CH-	2.24	No	99.06	16
James Devore	00	1,160	729	62.84	0.40	13.7	SM ⁵⁰	2.5	CH-	2.39	No	98.76	17
Jacob Heimsoth	51	1,250	788	63.04	0.40	12.3	MT ⁰	2.5	CH ⁰	3.06	Yes	98.22	18
Cullen Walser	25	1,205	769	63.82	0.45	13.2	MT ⁴⁰	3.5	CH ⁰	3.02	Yes	97.86	19
Joseph Ring	36	1,200	804	67.00	0.60	14.8	MT ⁴⁰	2.0	CH ⁰	2.72	Yes	97.76	20