



# Quiz Whiz Kids

Winning intermediate quiz bowl team from Texas says contest combines other NJAS experiences.

Story & photos by **Chelsea Good**

**W**hat percentage of feed energy and protein consumed by a cow is utilized for maintenance? What is the address of the American Angus Association? What was the name of the first registered Angus cow in the U.S.?

Know the answers to these questions? The champion intermediate quiz bowl team from Texas is well-versed in this material, along with much more.

Logan Lastovica, Megan Ahearn and Gretchen Ettredge were on the same team in 2003, when they won the junior division of the quiz bowl competition. This year, Logan's younger sister Mollie Lastovica joined them for their intermediate division championship.

"It's really an honor just to make the team from Texas," Mollie says. The team members received the top four test scores of the

approximately 30 Texas 14- to 17-year-olds competing for a spot on the intermediate team.

At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), team members took a test on Wednesday afternoon. Their test scores qualified them to advance to the verbal quiz bowl rounds on Thursday. The verbal rounds consisted of one-on-one questions directed toward a specific team member and an opponent from the other team, and toss-up questions, which anyone could answer.

The Texas team says their experience with other National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) contests is what separated them from the competition.

"You get a little bit of everything with quiz bowl," Logan says. "Other contests are specific, and quiz bowl ties them all together."

Ettredge said competing in the poster

contest and designing a brochure with Angus Foundation information helped broaden her knowledge base. Mollie says she learned about expected progeny differences (EPDs) in the sales competition and gained knowledge about the *Certified Angus Beef*<sup>®</sup> (CAB<sup>®</sup>) brand by participating in the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American CAB Cook-Off. Ahearn even received a quiz bowl question she had answered during the Cook-Off.

"With a sales talk, you can have your parts memorized, but with the quiz bowl you have no idea what questions you will be asked," Mollie says.

That doesn't mean you can't prepare for the quiz bowl. In addition to gaining knowledge through other contests, the Texas team practiced with questions from previous years. They also stayed up-to-date

► The Texas team goes head to head with Missouri in the final round, answering questions at the NJAS quiz bowl contest. Wearing purple, members of the Texas team, from left to right, are Mollie Lastovica, Megan Ahearn, Logan Lastovica and Gretchen Ettredge.




PHOTO BY SHAUNA ROSE HERMEL



on current issues by reading the *Angus Journal* and other agricultural publications.

Quiz bowl preparation is an ongoing process of staying informed and picking up new information whenever possible, but the Texas team says the thrill of the competition is worth the hard work.

“I think quiz bowl has a more competitive feel than most other events,” Mollie says. “It’s so split-second, and everyone wants to be the one to ring the buzzer first.”

Everyone may want to be the first to ring in, but this year the intermediate team from Texas beat the competition to the buzzer. With answers like 55%; 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506; and Favorite of Boghead, they proved that they are true quiz whiz kids. 



► **Left:** The team talks while waiting to be called for their first quiz bowl round.



► **Below:** The four Texas teens listen intently to a question being asked by the moderator.