

Showmen Compete

Young Angus exhibitors earn top showman honors at 2008 NJAS.

by *Shelia Stannard*

National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members from 27 states competed for the title of top showman at the 42nd National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest July 17-19 at the 2008 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Des Moines, Iowa. The 46 competitors first qualify at the state level and can compete only once at the national level. The national contest is sponsored by the American Angus Association, American Angus Auxiliary, Hamilton James Memorial Fund and Andis® Clippers.

Jennifer Ann Smith, Elysian Fields, Texas, won first place after being named one of the top 15 juniors to compete in the final round. As the winner, Smith won the esteemed Dean Hurlbut Award, a silver Revere bowl sponsored by the American Angus Auxiliary and a monetary award

provided by the Hamilton James Memorial Fund.

Lindsey White, Staunton, Va., earned second-place honors. Garrett Knebel, Winamac, Ind., claimed third place; and Gretchen Frost, Tallula, Ill., won fourth. Lauren Moss, Lancaster, Ky., rounded out the top five contestants, who each received a monetary award from the Hamilton James fund and a silver Revere bowl provided by the Auxiliary.

Exhibitors show animals chosen by random selection. Their performance is evaluated by a panel of top showmen on their skill, ability to follow instructions, use of equipment, courtesy, sportsmanship and general appearance. After four preliminary rounds, 15 finalists were chosen and awarded clippers provided by Andis.

Other finalists in the top 15 include

Garrett Blanchard, Firebaugh, Calif.; Austin Perry, Prather, Calif.; Kyle Carr, Elwood, Ind.; Kyleigh Santee, Langdon, Kan.; Ericka Waggner, Harrodsburg, Ky.; Jessica Willis, Union Bridge, Md.; Ben Warfield, Marriottsville, Md.; Kourtney Nelson, Crete, Neb.; Marcie Falleur, Gearhart, Ore.; and Staci Anderson, Parkston, S.D.

Juniors who received honorable mention include Kelsi Retallick, Glen Haven, Wis.; Klaire Jorgensen, Exeter, Neb.; Cameron Clark, Rochelle, Ga.; Sydney Geppert, Mitchell, S.D.; and Ryan Hollenberg, Mexico, Mo.

Photos of the winners are available in "At the Backdrop," which begins on page 210.

Judges for this year's competition included Holly Gamble Meier, Clinton, Tenn.; Jim Pipkin, Republic, Mo.; and Donnie Robertson, Yukon, Okla.



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► **Left:** Claiming top honors at the 2008 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest are **Jennifer Ann Smith**, Elysian Fields, Texas, first; **Lindsey White**, Staunton, Va., second; **Garrett Knebel**, Winamac, Ind., third; **Gretchen Frost**, Tallula, Ill., fourth; and **Lauren Moss**, Lancaster, Ky., fifth. Pictured are (from left) Holly Gamble Meier, Clinton, Tenn., judge; Donnie Robertson, Yukon, Okla., judge; Smith; White; Knebel; Frost; Moss; and Jim Pipkin, Republic, Mo., judge. Each of the top five finishers received a cash prize from the Hamilton James Memorial Fund and a silver Revere bowl from the American Angus Auxiliary.

► **Right:** Showmanship contestants are randomly assigned to animals selected from the cattle show.



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► **Below:** Judges for this year's showmanship competition included (from left) Holly Gamble Meier, Clinton, Tenn.; Donnie Robertson, Yukon, Okla.; and Jim Pipkin, Republic, Mo.



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► Forty-six competitors were judged on skill, ability to follow instructions, use of equipment, courtesy, sportsmanlike and general appearance.