



**GUARDIANS OF THE
PLAINS**
2023 NJAS * GRAND ISLAND, NE

Capes were secured and masks put in place as the superheroes of *The Business Breed* gathered for the 2023 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Hosted in Grand Island, Neb., July 2-9, National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members spent a week of their summer showcasing what it takes to serve as “Guardians of the Plains.”

At this year’s show, young Angus enthusiasts were reminded that the best heroes are the ones who never stop being amazed by their own strength, know how to celebrate humbly in their successes and aren’t afraid to lean on their sidekicks. The best heroes are proud members of the Angus family.

In and out of the show ring, surrounded by mentors and friends, NJAA members created new memories while embracing their competitive spirit during the seven-day event. Seven hundred and thirty-nine exhibitors from 37 states made up a total of 1,757 entries. Beyond the impressive turnout of black-hided cattle, juniors were able to participate in more than 20 contests. Upwards of 80 scholarships were also awarded at the NJAS.

The only kryptonite of this Angus group? Knowing they’ll have to wait another 365 days to enjoy the next NJAS.

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SUNDAY

A week of fun began at the Nebraska State Fair Grounds in Grand Island as NJAA members started checking in their animals. Signup for various contests began, but juniors had a chance to cool off with water games during the first session of the Angus Mentoring Program (AMP). Participants of the carcass contest also learned more about beef production during an educational clinic.



MONDAY

The last round of exhibitors and cattle arrived to the fairgrounds in time for the opening of the trade show and silent auction. NJAA members and their families had an opportunity to become Beef Quality Assurance (BQA)-certified during a training session sponsored by Certified Angus Beef. With the start of contests, juniors participated in the prepared public speaking, auctioneering and cattle judging contests. Prior to opening ceremonies, juniors had some fun outside the barns at AMP. The evening wrapped up with a tailgate party and street carnival.



TUESDAY



Events kicked off bright and early with the 5k Run and Angus Foundation Golf Tournament. It was also a day of learning as Sullivan Supply, Biozyme and Trans Ova hosted educational clinics. From fitting tips to nutrition secrets, juniors were able to indulge in a few games while learning more about the industry. Before the individuals vying for a green coat introduced themselves to delegates at the Annual Meeting of the NJAA, the barns were filled with tasty scents as the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American CAB Cook-off was underway.



WEDNESDAY



Prayers and a devotional signaled the start of the bred-and-owned (B&O) show. This fourth day of the NJAS presented opportunities to participate in the extemporaneous public speaking, skill-a-thon, team sales and quiz bowl contests. Fun was had for all as the American Angus Auxiliary hosted a scholarship workshop, social and mid-year meeting.

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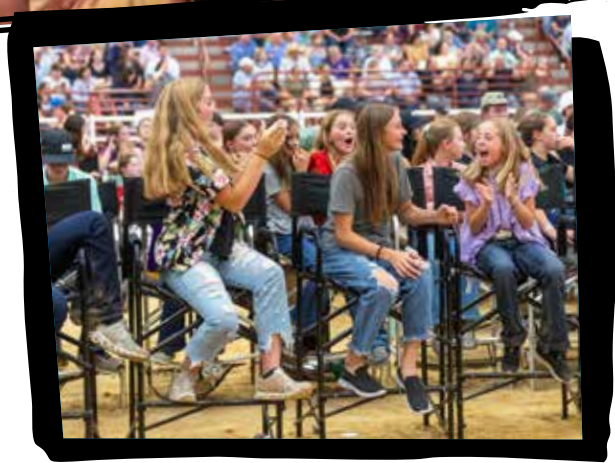
FRIDAY

THURSDAY

With juniors exhibiting their entries in the Phenotype and Genotype Show (PGS); owned cow-calf show; steer show; and B&O cow-calf and bull show, this was a busy day in the show ring. Angus enthusiasts flocked to the show ring for the awarding of champ slaps and the preliminary rounds of the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. In between classes, juniors competed in the quiz bowl, Skill-a-thon and beef science poster contests. A new event, Family Fun Night, allowed attendees to gather and relax while enjoying a hamburger and hot dog dinner provided by the American Angus Association.

As the end of the NJAS crept closer, owned heifers hit the show ring. The Advisor of the Year and Honorary Angus Foundation award winners were recognized in between classes. Applause and smiles were abundant at the NJAA Awards Premier, where contest winners and recipients of the Gold Awards, Crystal Award and scholarships were spotlighted. Tears flowed as the NJAA said goodbye and thank you to the retiring six members of the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB). After the announcement of officer positions, the newest individuals to wear the green coats were also announced.





SATURDAY

Wrapping up another great week, last purchases were made and bids placed at the trade show and silent auction. The best of the bunch received their silver bowls as winners were announced after the final round of the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. The owned heifer show wrapped up and banners were awarded to exhibitors of the top five females. Premier breeders, sweepstakes winners, owned best five head and Auxiliary Silver Pitchers were also announced.

