

NJAS Showmanship,

Top two showmen from each state compete in Indianapolis, Ind.

by **Claire Carlson**, public relations and communications intern

The showmanship contest is one of the most highly anticipated events of the year for members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to represent their state as a top showman — just ask this year's winner, Megan Collison, Rockwell City, Iowa, who won the top prize at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Indianapolis, Ind.

"I was shocked; I was not expecting it at all," Collison says. "Especially when they were calling them in order, and then it was me! If you saw my face, it was pretty shocked."

Forty-nine showmen displayed their skills during the 2014 NJAS in Indianapolis, Ind. After multiple preliminary heats and an intense final round, the top five showmen were selected.

The journey to earning one of the esteemed silver bowls, which are awarded to the top five showmen, begins in each contestant's home state. Two juniors are selected to represent their state, and individuals can only compete in the contest once. The top showman is honored with the Dean Hurlbut award, named after the man who organized the first showmanship competition, which was hosted in Lexington, Ky.

"Ever since I was little and watching the showmanship contest, I always wanted to be out there, and I never imaged that I would get to be holding one of the silver bowls," Collison says.

Three judges evaluated the juniors on their skills handling an animal they had never shown before, ability to follow instructions from the surrogate judge, and evidence of courtesy and sportsmanship in the ring.

Rounding out the top five were Calli Bayer, Ringle, Wis., second; Samuel Wallace, Stotts City, Mo., third; Amy Dierberger, Madera, Calif., fourth; and Ben Kiner, Mendota, Ill., fifth.

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Best of the Best



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As younger juniors look forward to their chance to compete in this prestigious event, they can take advice from one of this year's showmanship judges, Deanna Hofing.

"You have to have that presence and poise out there, even though you're under pressure and maybe your animal is not working the way you wanted," Hofing says. "It's the ability to still present yourself professionally in a calm, cool, collected manner that sets you to the top."

The remaining showmen of the top 15 were awarded Andis® clippers. They are Brandais Austrino, Dade City, Fla.; Leo Kruse, Rudd, Iowa; Taylor Adcock, Moweaqua, Ill.; Cody Theis, Leavenworth, Kan.; Elizabeth Otte, Saint Mary, Mo.; Justin Teeter, Mount Ulla, N.C.; Justine Nelson, Lincoln, Neb.; Cole Page, Kalama, Wash.;

► **Left:** The surrogate judge was Jon Davis (left), Gallipolis, Ohio. Showmanship judges were (from left) Rachel Cutrer, Wharton, Texas; Deanna Hofing, Coatesville, Ind.; and Mary Greiman, Garner, Iowa.



Megan Bradford, Waverly, Tenn.; and Jacob Steph, Tatum, Texas.

Five individuals were recognized as honorable mentions: Esther McCabe, Elk City, Kan.; Daniel McFarland, Keithville, La.; Kody Miller, Mount Olive, Miss.; Jennifer Keyes, Springfield, Neb.; and Austin Cogle, Kearneysville, W.Va.

Judging the elite competition were Deanna Hofing, Coatesville, Ind.; Rachel Cutrer, Wharton, Texas; and Mary Greiman, Garner, Iowa. Jon Davis, Gallipolis, Ohio, was surrogate judge.

Visit <http://bit.ly/1nJmHqn> online to see highlights from the showmanship finals.



► **Above:** Megan Collison (left), Rockwell City, Iowa, claimed first-place showmanship honors, winning the prestigious Dean Hurlbut Award in the 2014 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. American Angus Auxiliary President Cortney Holshouser presented the silver Revere bowl. The top five winners also received a monetary award from the Hamilton James Memorial Fund.

PHOTO BY KASEY BROWN



► The 15 finalists at the 2014 National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest are (from left) are **Leo Kruse**, Rudd, Iowa; **Ben Kiner**, Mendota, Ill., fifth; **Megan Bradford**, Waverly, Tenn.; **Cody Theis**, Leavenworth, Kan.; **Brandais Austrino**, Dade City, Fla.; **Justine Nelson**, Lincoln, Neb.; **Megan Collison**, Rockwell City, Iowa, first; **Taylor Adcock**, Moweaqua, Ill.; **Calli Bayer**, Ringle, Wis., second; **Amy Dierberger**, Madera, Calif., fourth; **Justin Teeter**, Mount Ulla, N.C.; **Samuel Wallace**, Stotts City, Mo., third; **Elizabeth Otte**, Saint Mary, Mo.; **Cole Page**, Kalama, Wash.; and **Jacob Steph**, Tatum, Texas. 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.