

STEP RIGHT UP

to the 2011 National Junior Summer Spectacular

Story by Libby Williams

Photos by Tamara Choat, Katie Maupin
and Libby Williams

Ringling Brothers doesn't have anything on the 14th-Annual National Junior Summer Spectacular (NJSS) that was held June 28-July 2 in Louisville, Ky. Truly "The Greatest Show on Earth," the 2011 NJSS kicked off in style, featuring 667 of the most amazing junior showmen and 1,016 spectacular gilts that could easily compete with dancing elephants and trapeze artists. The show was a magnificent, fantastic and thrilling five-day spectacle sparked by competition and companionship that only the National Junior Swine Association (NJSA) and its members could generate.

Come one, come all

The great event commenced by reuniting mentors and their protégés at the Mentoring Values People (MVP) carnival Tuesday evening. Not only did this event give NJSA members the opportunity to clown around with NJSA junior board members, ambassadors and candidates, they also had the chance to win a variety of prizes by playing carnival games with friends. That wasn't the end of Tuesday's fun.

What do you get when you combine bananas, whipped cream, potatoes, water and bubble gum? Barnyard Olympics!

NJSA members got to know each other, learned a little about teamwork and had a blast doing it as they competed in the NJSS' Olympic games.

The true opening ceremony took place on Wednesday amidst preparation for the big show and contests. The ring was filled with amazing circus acts interpreted by the junior board "Ring Leaders." A fortune teller, clowns, a tight-rope walker, and the circus gypsy headed the events and kicked things off under the big top.

The main event

Contests based on NJSA members, not their livestock, were in the spotlight Wednesday.

Skillathon contestants displayed their knowledge of the swine industry by answering a series of hands-on questions pertaining to feedstuffs,

swine breeds, pedigrees and ear notching. Showmanship competitors rivaled one another by parading their gilts with class in hopes of being named the Champion Showman of their age divisions.

Craig Spray of Lafayette, Ind., had the challenge of sorting the junior and senior showmen, and Seth Swenson of Newark, Ill., tackled the task of ranking novice and intermediate showmen. On the microphone, both judges admitted that sorting from the best of the best in terms of skill, talent and passion was a difficult undertaking. Champions were chosen the following morning, causing exhibitors to head to the hotels Wednesday evening with anticipation of the finals the next day.

"I truly believe that we are blessed to have the elite young people of America in our organization," says Sarah Schwab, NSR junior activities coordinator.

"I am always excited to see each member put their own unique set of talents to use, regardless if it is in the show ring, competing in the skillathon, or displaying their creative abilities in the poster or photo contest."

What one might call a "two-ring circus," the gilt show on Thursday was world-class. Exhibitors from 28 states marched some of the highest quality females in the world through two rings, headed by judges Al Schminke of Van Horne, Iowa, assigned to the Duroc and Hampshire arena, and Bobby Listen of El Reno, Okla., evaluating the Landrace and Yorkshire classes. At the end of the day, eight females representing the finest showpigs in the country were center stage for the Champion Gilt Drive.

Amazingly, Chloe O'Neal of Wilkinson, Ind., exhibitor of the 2010 NJSS Champion Female Overall, was

named Champion Overall for the second consecutive year, this time with her Duroc female. The Reserve Champion honor was given to a Yorkshire female exhibited by Scott Gardner of Grindstone, Pa.

Those hopeful to someday become like the ring leaders who judged the previous day's shows competed in Friday's swine judging contest. Evaluating six classes of pigs, contestants used what they learned in the show ring to make it to the top of this contest. Others competed in the speech and extemporaneous speaking contests that allowed them to communicate their positions on agricultural issues.

The grand finale

Cally Hass, NSR director of junior activities and Schwab wrapped up Friday's events by rewarding hard-working NJSA members with achievement awards at Friday evening's awards ceremony. Outgoing NJSA junior board members were thanked and incoming members were welcomed aboard.

On Saturday, the final morning of the NJSS, the uplifting Ray Perryman of

Shallowater, Texas, brought NJSA members and their families together to relax, praise and give thanks for the fantastic opportunities that the previous week brought to the NJSA and its outstanding members.

Sweepstakes and All-Around Sweepstakes awards were dispersed by Hass and Schwab in the main ring. These awards finalized the show, and also the entire year's show circuit.

"I will always feel that we want every show to be better than what it was. That is what drives us to make the NJSA better and better every year," Schwab says. "We will not be able to challenge our members and help cultivate their passion for the swine industry if we don't continue to push forward and make every event better year to year."

And that isn't the end. The 2011-2012 show circuit is waiting on the sidelines. Before you know it, the fun, learning, competition and friendship will come again at the 15th Annual NJSS, July 3-7, 2012. Don't miss next year's opportunity to see the most amazing creatures and showmen enter the spotlight.



Show and Sales

NJSS WINNERS' CIRCLE

No. of participants: 667

No. of gilts: 1,016

States represented: 28

State with most participants: Indiana

Gilt Show Judges:

Duroc & Hampshire: Al Schminke, Iowa

Landrace & Yorkshire: Bobby Listen, Okla.

Showmanship Judges:

Novice & Intermediate: Seth Swenson, Ill.

Junior & Senior: Craig Spray, Ind.

Grand Champion Gilt Overall won: \$2,000 and one-year trailer lease from Cimarron Trailers

Res. Champion Gilt Overall won: \$1,000 and popper from Murphy Trailer sales

3rd-Place Gilt Overall won: \$500

4th-Place Gilt Overall won: \$300

5th-Place Gilt Overall won: \$150

Breed Champions won: \$1,500 scholarships

Res. Breed Champions won: \$750 scholarships

Champion Bred & Owned won: \$100

Res. Champion Bred & Owned won: \$50

Grand Champion Gilt Overall



**Champion Duroc Gilt
Division III Champion**

Shown by Chloe O'Neal, Ind.

Sired by RWG8 Problem Solver 197-2

Reserve Champion Gilt Overall



**Champion Yorkshire Gilt
Division IV Champion**

Shown by Scott Gardner, Pa.

Sired by ASLS0 GRUS Archway 3-7

3rd-Place Gilt Overall



**Reserve Champion Duroc Gilt
Division I Champion**

Shown by Robby Sheets, Ind.

Sired by RWG8 Full Shift 145-1

4th-Place Gilt Overall



**Champion Hampshire Gilt
Champion Bred & Owned Hampshire
Division II Champion**

Shown by Austin Joostberns, Mich.

Sired by GMWO PSSS Dateline 7-3

5th-Place Gilt Overall



**Champion Landrace Gilt
Champion Bred & Owned Landrace**

Shown by Cody Steele, Ind.

Sired by OGL9 TCG Hercules 5-1



Reserve Champion Yorkshire Gilt
Division III Champion
 Shown by Shelby Cook, Ind.
 Sired by COD9 Perfect Storm 258-5



Reserve Champion Hampshire Gilt
Division I Champion
 Shown by Chloe O'Neal, Ind.
 Sired by MVLS0 Long Time Coming 12-1



Reserve Champion Landrace Gilt
 Shown by Miranda Malcolm, Ind.
 Sired by CRSH0 GRUS Apollo 9-4



Champion Bred & Owned Duroc Gilt
Division I Reserve Champion
 Shown by Brandon Stickler, Ill.
 Sired by RWG9 Turn It Up 154-1



Champion Bred & Owned
Yorkshire Gilt
 Shown by Damon Stayton, Ill.
 Sired by ASLS9 On the Verge 4-14



Reserve Champion Bred & Owned
Duroc Gilt
Division II Reserve Champion
 Shown by Natalie Hofschulte, Okla.
 Sired by RWG0 Tribute 26-3



Reserve Champion Bred & Owned
Yorkshire Gilt
 Shown by Kara Hendrickson, Ind.
 Sired by LFC9 Hedgepost 99-7



Reserve Champion Bred & Owned
Hampshire Gilt
4th Overall Hampshire
Division I Res. Champion
 Shown by Cailyn Hines, Mich.
 Sired by BOX7 Crazy Train 4-1



Reserve Champion Bred & Owned
Landrace Gilt
3rd Overall Landrace
 Shown by Makenzie O'Neal, Ind.
 Sired by JMG8 PSSS Zeus 40-8

Show and Sales

Yorkshire Gilt Show



3rd Overall Yorkshire Gilt Division IV Reserve Champion

Shown by Rebecca Oliver, Ind.
Sired by TBRO Big Splash 64-1



4th Overall Yorkshire Gilt Division II Champion

Shown by Tanner North, Ind.
Sired by NCG9 TCG Step Ahead 45-12



5th Overall Yorkshire Gilt Division IV Honorable Mention

Shown by Morgan Kennedy, Mich.
Sired by WGW9 Moonshine 72-4



Division I Champion

Shown by Devon Fisher, Ind.
Sired by WGW9 Moonshine 72-4



Division I Reserve Champion

Shown by Hadley Rennick, Ind.
Sired by MCL9 Drive By 1-1



Division II Honorable Mention

Shown by Bruce Frederick, Pa.
Sired by WGW9 Moonshine 72-4



Division III Reserve Champion

Shown by Paige Winingar, Ind.
Sired by VBF0 Milkshake 21-8



Division III Honorable Mention

Shown by Thomas Trout, Ind.
Sired by WKE9 New Standard 8-4



1st Class 1

Shown by Micah Smock, Ohio
Sired by WGW9 The Grizz 38-8

NOT PICTURED:

Division I Honorable Mention

Shown by Hunter Paul Picard, La.
Sired by LFC0 Cadillac 64-4



1st Class 4

Shown by Kayden Brady, Okla.
Sired by ASLS9 On The Verge 4-14

NOT PICTURED:

Division II Reserve Champion

Shown by Ella Bobell, Ill.
Sired by LFC9 PSSS Initial Shock 85-3



1st Class 5
Shown by Hadley Broadwater, Ind.
Sired by HOL0 I Max 8-5



1st Class 9
Shown by Sydney Van Meter, Ind.
Sired by DRSC8 High Society 1-1



1st Class 10
Shown by Jason Leigh, III.
Sired by LFC9 PSSS Initial Shock 85-3



1st Class 12
Shown by Tanner Coulter, Ind.
Sired by ASL0 GRUS Arch Way 3-7



1st Class 17
Shown by Ryan Knight, III.
Sired by CDO9 Perfect Storm 258-5



1st Class 18
Shown by Olivia Caldwell, III.
Sired by NCG9 Empire 43-11



1st Class 22
Shown by Jennifer Castor, Ind.
Sired by JGR9 Mighty Mack 58-5

NOT PICTURED:
1st Class 15
Shown by Skylar Knapp, Ind.
Sired by WGW9 The Grizz 38-3



Landrace Gilt Show



4th Overall Landrace Gilt
Shown by Kathryn Pierce, Ind.
Sire by CR7 Dynamite 452-1



5th Overall Landrace Gilt
Shown by Joy Sheldon, Ind.
Sired by SJM9 GRUS Big Splash 1-6

Show and Sales

Duroc Gilt Show



3rd Overall Duroc Gilt
Division III Reserve Champion
Shown by Elizabeth Hodges, Kan.
Sired by OAB8 PSSS Buck Cherry 1-1



4th Overall Duroc Gilt
Division III Honorable Mention
Shown by Seth Smoot, Ind.
Sired by JRS9 Manual Labor 96-6



5th Overall Duroc Gilt
Division II Champion
Shown by Allison George, Ala.
Sired by SAMS0 Justified 19-1



Division I Honorable Mention
Shown by Sam Smoot, Ind.
Sired by OAB8 PSSS Buck Cherry 1-1



Division II Honorable Mention
Shown by Mackenzie Langemeier, Texas
Sired by WBSR0 Gator 1-4



1st Class 1
Shown by Eric Schaffer, Ill.
Sired by OAB8 PSSS Buck Cherry 1-1



1st Class 4
Shown by Kinsea Hanni, Ind.
Sired by COLO9 Buck A Roo 1-4



1st Class 9
Shown by Tyler Loschen, Ill.
Sired by SDF9 Secretariat 54-12



1st Class 10
Shown by Jaxon Parmley, Ind.
Sired by NBD0 Premonition 28-2



1st Class 12
Shown by Paige Winger, Ind.
Sired by NBD0 Premonition 28-1

Hampshire Gilt Show



3rd Overall Hampshire Gilt
Division II Reserve Champion
 Shown by Amy Newnum, Ind.
 Sired by MVL50 Oh My 3-1



5th Overall Hampshire Gilt
Division II Honorable Mention
 Shown by Allison Snider, Ind.
 Sired by JLM9 TCG Augusta 18-1



Division I Honorable Mention
 Shown by Madison Welch, Ind.
 Sired by MVL50 Long Time Coming 12-1



1st Class 1
 Shown by Sam Cline, Ind.
 Sired by BOLN9 Homemade 45-1



1st Class 2
 Shown by Nathan Joostberns, Mich.
 Sired by TWL0 White Collar 7-3



1st Class 3
 Shown by Madison Langemeier, Texas
 Sired by HIN9 Gold Standard 32-5



1st Class 6
 Shown by Madysen Spencer, Ind.
 Sired by JLM8 Coon 5-1



1st Class 8
 Shown by Brock Rule, Ind.
 Sired by BOLN8 Home Grown 99-3

NOT PICTURED:

1st Class 7

Shown by Andrew Hodges, Kan.
 Sired by JM8 Texas Flood 1-2

NOT PICTURED:

1st Class 11

Shown by Sydney Cain, Iowa
 Sired by MVL50 Oh My 3-1

Show and Sales

Showmanship

Judges: Novice and Intermediate: Seth Swenson, III. • Junior and Senior: Craig Spray, Ind.



Top 10 Novice Showmanship

Front row (l to r): 1st: Liza Klingenberg, Mich.; 2nd: Lizzie Schafer, Ill.; 3rd: Brody Nemecek, Kan.; 4th: Ashtyn Harvey, Ind.; 5th: Chloe O'Neal, Ind.
Back row (l to r): 6th: Jaydyn Wehmer, Ind.; 7th: Makenzie O'Neal, Ind.; 8th: Bailey Taylor, Ind.; 9th: Marley Thornton, Miss.; 10th: Conner Smock, Ohio



Top 10 Junior Showmanship

Front row (l to r): 1st: Cailyn Hines, Mich.; 2nd: Megan Mench, Ind.; 3rd: Macy Mead, Ind.; 4th: Peyton Winiger, Ind.; 5th: Eric Schafer, Ill.
Back row (l to r): 6th: Gracie Flaspohler, Ind.; 7th: Brandon Stickler, Ill.; 8th: Adrian Austin, Ill.; 9th: Keaton Woods, Ind.; 10th: Megan Taylor, Ind.



Top 10 Intermediate Showmanship

Front row (l to r): 1st: Kane Austin, Ill.; 2nd: Maddison Caldwell, Ind.; 3rd: Amy Loschen, Ill.; 4th: Matt Marion, Ind.; 5th: Abby Taylor, Ind.
Back row (l to r): 6th: Paige Wininger, Ind.; 7th: Christine Todd, Ill.; 8th: Morgan Mench, Ind.; 9th: Rebecca Oliver, Ind.; 10th: Gus Mitchem, Ohio



Top 10 Senior Showmanship

Front row (l to r): 1st: David Ammann, Ill.; 2nd: Brennen North, Ind.; 3rd: Teagan Simmons, Ind.; 4th: Alison Harwell, Mich.; 5th: Breanna Lawyer, Ind.
Back row (l to r): 6th: Ryan Riddle, Ohio; 7th: Baxter Howell, Ind.; 8th: Taylor Brown, Ind.; 9th: Erica Langhoff, Wis.; 10th: Sarah Hardman, Ill.

Skillathon

Skillathon participants demonstrated their knowledge about swine by identifying feed stuffs, reading ear notches, answering questions and more.



Top 10 Novice Skillathon

Front row (l to r): 1st: Allison Wheeler, Ill.; 2nd: Allison Stoner, Md.; 4th: Brody Nemeczek, Kan.; 5th: Riley Wendt, Ohio
 Back row (l to r): 6th: Bailey Taylor, Ind.; 8th: Nalaney Guyer, Ill.; 9th: Justin Michael, Ohio; 10th: Owen Rozeboom, Wis.
 (Not pictured: 3rd: Case Barton, Ohio; and 7th: Gavin Biery, Ohio)



Top 10 Junior Skillathon

Front row (l to r): 1st: Kelton Rozeboom, Wis.; 2nd: Lea Kimley, Ohio; 4th: Payton Hines, Mich.; 5th: Madison Cook, Del.
 Back row (l to r): 6th: Cailyn Hines, Mich.; 7th: Jenna Wheeler, Ill.; 8th: Adrian Austin, Ill.; 9th: Tate Coulter, Ind.; 10th: Gary Nelson Barger, Ky.
 (Not pictured: 3rd: Jennifer Luce, Ohio)



Top 10 Intermediate Skillathon

Front row (l to r): 1st: Garrett Lowes, Ind.; 2nd: Dillon Sigrist, Ill.; 3rd: Taylor Conley, Pa.; 4th: Jackson Johnson, Ind.; 5th: Kayla Clyburn, Ohio
 Back row (l to r): 7th: Cole Riddle, Ohio; 7th: Amy Loschen, Ill.; 8th: Avery Boudreaux, La.; 9th: Kathryn Pierce, Ind.; 10th: Paige Winger, Ind.



Top 10 Senior Skillathon

Front row (l to r): 1st: Nathan Joostberns, Mich.; 2nd: Ryan Riddle, Ohio; 3rd: Rachael Arkfeld, Neb.; 4th: Derel Gowenlock, N.Y.; 5th: Emily Arkfeld, Neb.
 Back row (l to r): 6th: David Ammann, Ill.; 7th: Katherine McCormick, Md.; 8th: Sarah Hardman, Ill.; 9th: Kassandra Knauth, Ill.
 (Not pictured: 10th: Ben Kemme, Ill.)

Show and Sales

Judging Contest

Contestants evaluated six classes comprised of breeding gilts and market hogs. Senior contestants gave three sets of oral reasons, intermediates gave one set and answered two sets of questions, and juniors also answered two questions classes. Novice contestants judged two classes and had questions on one class.



Top 10 Novice Judging Contest

Front row (l to r): 1st: Nalaney Guyer, Ill.; 3rd: Chloe O'Neal, Ind.; 4th: John Smock, Ohio; 5th: Madilyn Malcolm, Ind.

Back row (l to r) 6th: Lizzie Schafer, Ill.; 7th: Michaela Marion, Ind.; 8th: Morgan Van Meter, Ind.; 9th: Savannah Page, Ga.; 10th: Gracee Beth Stewart, Ohio
(Not pictured: 2nd: Dustin Winner, Ohio)



Top 10 Junior Judging Contest

Front row (l to r): 1st: Adrian Austin, Ill.; 3rd: Tyler Hannon, Ind.; 4th: Cailyn Hines, Mich.; 5th: Robby Sheets, Ind.

Back row (l to r): 6th: Lea Kimley, Ohio; 7th: Megan Marion, Ind.; 9th: Jada Johnson, Ind.
Not pictured: 2nd: Alida Jackson, Ind.; 8th: Dylan Cain, Iowa and 10th: Jaxson Parmley, Ind.)



Top 10 Intermediate Judging Contest

Front row (l to r): 1st: Amy Loschen, Ill.; 2nd: Natalie Hoffschulte, Okla.; 3rd: Kane Austin, Ill.; 5th: Jackson Johnson, Ind.

Back row (l to r) 6th: Trey Fecke, Ill.; 7th: Tyler Gradert, Ill.; 8th: Caitlyn Bowyer, Ill.; 9th: Jayde Sills, Ind.; 10th: Timothy Hubbard, Ga.
(Not pictured: 4th: Ben Sheldon, Ind.)



Top 10 Senior Judging Contest

Front row (l to r): 1st: Maverick Squires, Okla.; 2nd: Tegan Simmons, Ind.; 3rd: Chris Hofschulte, Okla.; 4th: John Hines, Ga.; 5th: Emily Arkfeld, Neb.

Back row (l to r): 6th: Blake Davis, Ark.; 7th: Cheyenne Wiley, Kan.; 8th: Sarah Hardman, Ill.; 9th: Tyler Loschen, Ill.; 10th: David Ammann, Ill.



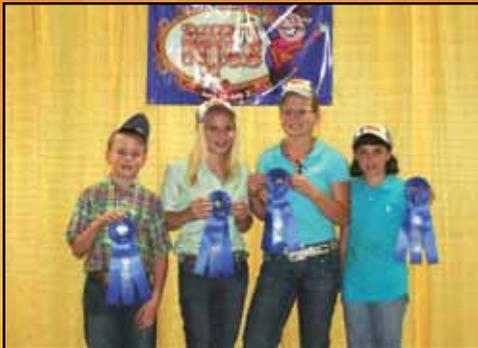
1st Novice Judging Team • "The Unpredictables"

(l to r): Nalaney Guyer, Ill.; Allison Wheeler, Ill.; Olivia Caldwell, Ind.; Chloe O'Neal, Ind.



2nd Novice Judging Team • "1-70 Split"

(l to r): Zander Ivey, Ohio; Parker Mead, Ind.; Lizzie Schafer, Ill.
(Not Pictured: Kayla Baker, Ind.)



1st Junior Judging Team • "Big Ten Team"

(l to r): Eric Shaffer, Ill.; Adrian Austin, Ill.; Cailyn Hines, Mich.; Jada Johnson, Ind.



2nd Junior Judging Team • "Allstars"

(l to r): Nikki Stephenson, Ind.; Robbie Sheets, Ind.; Megan Mench, Ind.; Auburn Harvey, Ind.



1st Intermediate Judging Team • "Welcome to the Big Show"

(l to r): Natalie Hofschulte, Okla.; Tyler Gradert, Ill.; Kane Austin, Ill.; Trey Fecke, Ill.



2nd Intermediate Judging Team • "The Illinois People"

(l to r): Amy Loschen, Ill.; Caitlyn Bowyer, Ill.; Cara Bowyer, Ill.
(Not Pictured: Austin Hyett, Ill.)



1st Senior Judging Team • "Team Baxter"

(l to r): Breanna Lawyer, Ind.; Brennen North, Ind.; Tegan Simmons, Ind.; Chris Hofschulte, Okla.



2nd Senior Judging Team • "Team 5- Arkfeld"

(l to r): Emily Arkfeld, Neb.; Maverick Squires, Okla.; Cheyenne Wiley, Kan.

Show and Sales

Speech Contest

NJSA members put their communication skills to the test. Speeches were given on a variety of topics including the Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus Program, Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) and keeping pigs healthy traveling to and from shows, and the many uses of swine.



Top 4 Novice/Junior Speech Contest

(l to r): 1st: Maddie Fugate, Ill.; 2nd: Payton Hines, Mich.; 3rd: Jacob Sterle, Texas; 4th: Eric Schafer, Ill.



Top 6 Intermediate/Senior Speech Contest

(l to r): 1st: Amy Loschen, Ill.; 2nd: Mindy Cook, Del.; 3rd: Taylor Conley, Pa.; 5th: Kylie Phillips, Fla.; 6th: Bridget McConnell, Pa.
(Not pictured: 4th: Emily Herbert, La.)



Top 8 Extemporeous Speech Contest

Front row (l to r): 1st: Emily Arkfeld, Neb.; 2nd: Rachael Arkfeld, Neb.; 3rd: Lexi Marek, Iowa; 4th: Mindy Cook, Del.; 5th: William Jameson, Fla.
Back row (l to r): 6th: Bridget McConnell, Pa.; 7th: Macy Marek, Iowa; 8th: Colby Rash, Del.

State Scrapbook Contest

Members from two states compiled scrapbooks for the state contest. Scrapbooks were judged on creativity, educational value, eye appeal, theme and neatness.

1st: Ohio 2nd: New York



Ohio NJSA members accept their awards for champion State Scrapbook and for winning the Food Drive Contest.

Barnyard Olympics

The first NJSS Barnyard Olympics made a big splash as members competed in water races, potato golf and more — all the while making new friends and having a blast!

1st: Team Awesome Illinois



Front row (l to r): Lizzie Schafer, Cassandra Knauth.
Back row: Christine Todd, Maddie Fugate, and team leader Ellen Olsen, all of Illinois.

Food Drive Contest

New this year, the Food Drive Contest pitted state against state to collect non-perishable food items to win a traveling plaque — and help those less fortunate. All collected food was donated to the Dare to Care Food Bank of Louisville, Ky.

1st: Ohio — 608 items

2nd: Kentucky — 136 items

3rd: California — 85 items

Poster Contest

NJSA members designed posters relating to NJSA recruitment and breed/association promotion. Posters were judged based on message, creativity, organization and design.



Novice Breed/Association Poster Contest

1st: (second from left) Landry Miller, Texas; 2nd: (inset) Carter Arbuckle, Mich.;
HM: (second from right) Justin Michael, Ohio

Novice NJSA Recruitment Poster Contest

1st: (right) Lizzie Schafer, Ill.; 2nd: (center) Morgan Michael, Ohio;
HM: (left) Riley Wendt, Ohio



Junior NJSA Recruitment Poster Contest

1st: Brandon Stickler, Ill.; 2nd: Keri Landry, La.
(Not pictured: HM: Kaylah Bolender-Heaton, Ind.)



Junior Breed/Association Poster Contest

2nd: Maddie Fugate, Mahomet, Ill.; HM: Lea Kimley, Ohio
(Not pictured: 1st: Kaylah Bolender-Heaton, Ind.)



Intermediate Breed/Association Poster Contest

2nd: Caisey DeOrnellas, Ohio; HM: Gus Mitchem, Ohio
(Not pictured: 1st: Allison George, Ala.)

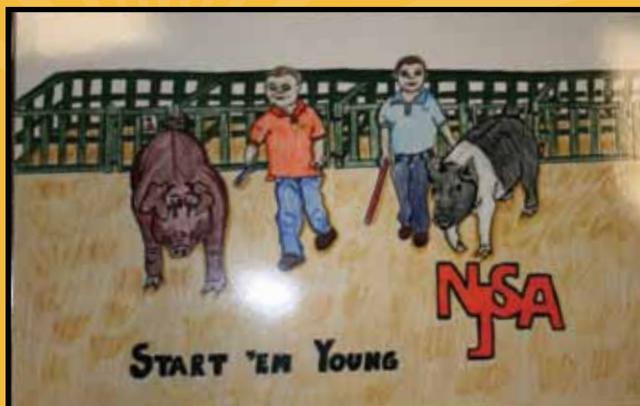


Senior NJSA Recruitment Poster Contest

1st: Heather Storer, Ohio

Best Poster Overall First NJSA Recruitment

Brandon Stickler, Ill.



Show and Sales

Photography Contest



Novice – Swine

2nd: Riley Wendt, Ohio (Not pictured: 1st: Carter Arbuckle, Mich.; HM: Nalaney Guyer, Ill.)



Novice – General Agriculture

HM: Liza Klingenberg, Mich.; 2nd: Parker Mead, Ind. (Not pictured: 1st: Jaiya Corn, Ind.)



Novice – Humor

1st: Nalaney Guyer, Ill.; 2nd: Gracee Beth Stewart, Ohio; HM: Chasten McConnell, Pa.



Novice – People

HM: Liza Klingenberg, Mich.; 2nd: Savannah Page, Ga. (Not pictured: 1st: Gracee Beth Stewart, Ohio)



Junior – Swine

1st: Jacob Sterle, Texas; 2nd: Payton Hines, Mich. HM: Riley Klingenberg, Mich.



Junior – General Agriculture

HM: Jacob Sterle, Texas; 1st: Cailyn Hines, Mich. (Not pictured: 2nd: Drew Tucker, Ga.)



Junior – Humor

1st: Madison Cook, Neb.; 2nd: Ashton Guyer, Robinson, Ill.; HM: Austin Rolfe, Ohio



Junior – People

1st: Maddie Fugate, Ill.; 2nd: Macy Mead, Ind.; HM: Ashton Guyer, Ill.



Intermediate – Swine

1st: Allison George, Ala.; 2nd: Ashly Anderson, Calif.; HM: Laine Honegger, Ill.



Intermediate – General Agriculture

1st: Ashly Anderson, Calif.; 2nd: Cole Riddle, Ohio; HM: Allison George, Ala.



Intermediate – Humor

1st: Natalie Kornick, Ind.; 2nd: Jackson Johnson, Ind.; HM: Kinsea Hanni, Ind.



Intermediate – People

2nd: Emma See, N.C.; HM: Christine Todd, Ill. (Not pictured: 1st: Allison George, Ala.)



Senior – Swine

1st: Alison Harwell, Mich.; 2nd: Gavin Livingston, Mo.; HM: Katherine McCormick, Md.



Senior – General Agriculture

1st: Shannon Spargo, N.Y.; 2nd: Tyler Loschen, Ill.; HM: Brennen North, Ind.



Senior – Humor

1st: Gavin Livingston, Mo.; 2nd: Tonya Fender, Ohio; HM: Emily Arkfeld, Neb.



Senior – People

1st: Sarah Hardman, Ill. (Not Pictured: 2nd: Brennen North, Ind.)

Creative, behind-the-scene talents were shown off by NJSA members who submitted photos in the snapshot showcase. Photos were placed in four categories: humor, people, swine and general agriculture. First, second and honorable mentions were awarded; below are the first place photos.



Novice – Humor

Nalaney Guyer, Ill.



Novice – Swine

Carter Arbuckle, Mich.



Novice – People

Gracee Beth Stewart, Ohio



Novice – General Agriculture

Jaiya Corn, Ind.



Junior – Humor

Madison Cook, Del.



Junior – Swine

Jacob Sterle, Texas



Junior – General Agriculture

Cailyn Hines, Mich.



Intermediate – Humor

Natalie Kornick, Ind.



Intermediate – Swine

Allison George, Ala.



Intermediate – People

Allison George, Ala.



Senior – Humor

Gavin Livingston, Mo.

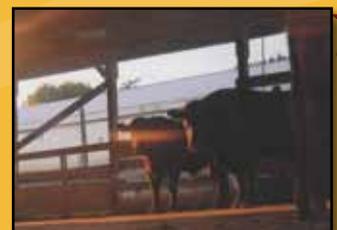


Senior – Swine

Alison Harwell, Mich

**Best of Show
Intermediate
General Ag.**

Ashly Anderson, Calif.



Senior – General Agriculture

Shannon Spargo, N.Y.

Pictures Not Available:

Junior People

Maddie Fugate, Ill.

Senior People

Sara Hardman, Ill.

Show and Sales

Sweepstakes Contest

The sweepstakes award is a combination of points accumulated from the gilt show, and showmanship, skillathon and judging contests. To be eligible for the sweepstakes contest participants must compete in each contest.



Top 10 Novice Sweepstakes Contest

Front row (l to r): 1st: Nalaney Guyer, Ill.; 2nd: Makenzie O'Neal, Ind.; 3rd: Chloe O'Neal, Ind.; 4th: Brody Nemecek, Kan.; 5th: Lizzie Schafer, Ill.

Back row (l to r): 6th: Riley Wendt, Ohio; 7th: Olivia Caldwell, Ill.; 8th: Ashtyn Harvey, Ind.; 9th: Allison Stoner, Md.

(Not pictured: 10th: Bailey Taylor, Ind.)



Top 10 Junior Sweepstakes Contest

Front row (l to r): 1st: Cailyn Hines, Mich.; 2nd: Adrian Austin, Ill.; 3rd: Lea Kimley, Ohio; 4th: Robby Sheets, Ind.; 5th: Payton Hines, Mich.

Back row (l to r): 6th: Gracie Flaspohler, Ind.; 8th: Jaxon Parmley, Ind.; 9th: Brandon Stickler, Ill.; 10th: Skylar Knapp, Ind.

(Not pictured: 7th: Tyler Hannon, Ind.)



Top 10 Intermediate Sweepstakes Contest

Front row (l to r): 1st: Amy Loschen, Ill.; 2nd: Natalie Hofschulte, Okla.; 3rd: Kane Austin, Ill.; 4th: Maddison Caldwell, Ill.; 5th: Jackson Johnson, Ind.

Back row (l to r): 6th: Trey Fecke, Ill.; 7th: Austin Joostberns, Mich.; 8th: Taylor Conley, Pa.; 10th: Garret Lowes, Ind.

(Not pictured: 9th: Abby Taylor, Ind.)



Top 10 Senior Sweepstakes Contest

Front row (l to r): 1st: Tegan Simmons, Ind.; 2nd: Nathan Joostberns, Mich.; 3rd: David Ammann, Ill.; 4th: Ryan Riddle, Ohio; 5th: Brennen North, Ind.

Back row (l to r): 7th: Sarah Hardman, Ill.; 9th: Bruce Frederick, Pa.; 10th: Tyler Loschen, Ill.

(Not pictured: 6th: Emily Arkfeld, Neb., and 8th: Chris Hofschulte, Okla.)

Tegan Simmons • Senior Sweepstakes Winner



Tegan Simmons, 22, of Tipton, Ind., is this year's NJSS Senior Sweepstakes winner. His parents are Mark and Carla Simmons. He has an older brother, Trey, who is a livestock judging coach in Kansas and a younger sister, Hannah, who is a senior in high school.

Simmons is a senior at Purdue University where he competed on the livestock judging team. Upon

graduating he hopes to find a designing job with a landscaping firm, and plans to one day run his own firm. It is no surprise that his main hobby outside of showing is landscaping work.

When it comes to showing, Simmons says he enjoys, "getting to see the other hogs and getting to talk with the different breeders from all over." Simmons enjoys the competitiveness among other showman as well. At the NJSS he was 3rd in showmanship, 2nd place individual and 1st place team in the judging contest, and was 3rd with his Yorkshire gilt.

Cailyn Hines • Junior Sweepstakes Winner



Cailyn Hines, 13, of Quincy, Mich., was recognized as this year's winner in the junior sweepstakes competition at the 2011 NJSS.

Hines, daughter of Brian and Donna Hines, is an eighth grader at Quincy Middle School. Her younger sister, Payton, also enjoys showing.

Hines enjoys spending time with her friends, playing soccer, basketball

and softball, showing goats and starter calves, working on 4-H projects, participating on the debate team for Michigan Youth in Government and serving as the vice president of her student council.

At NJSS this year, Hines was a junior division winner in photography, 1st in showmanship, 6th in the skillathon contest, 4th place individual and 1st place team in the judging contest, and had 4th Overall Hampshire gilt, Reserve Champion Hampshire gilt of Division II, and Reserve Champion Bred-and-Owned Hampshire Gilt, and her other Hampshire gilt was 8th in class.

She thanks her grandparents for their involvement in breeding Hampshires for many years, along with her parents and sister for always standing as a team. She also thanks her mentors, Jenna Crone and Lynsee Shaffer.

Amy Loschen • Intermediate Sweepstakes Winner



Amy Loschen, 16, of Kempton, Ill., was recognized as this year's winner of the NJSS Intermediate Sweepstakes. Loschen is the daughter of Gary and Diana Loschen, and has one older brother, Tyler. She is currently attending Tripoint High School.

Her favorite thing about showing pigs is getting to meet people from all across the country that have the same interests and passion

for the industry. Outside of showing pigs, Amy's hobbies include playing volleyball and showing Hereford cattle.

At NJSS this year, Loschen placed 3rd in showmanship, 7th in the skillathon contest, 1st in the speech contest, 1st place individual and 2nd place team in the judging contest, and received 6th place with her Yorkshire gilt and 3rd place with her Hampshire gilt.

"NJSS went great and everybody at the show had a great time," Loschen says.

Nalaney Guyer • Novice Sweepstakes Winner



Nalaney Guyer of Robinson, Ill., was this year's NJSS Novice Sweepstakes Winner. She is 7 years old and attends New Hebron Christian School. Her parents are Dave and Lucy Guyer, and she has one older sister, Ashton, who also shows.

Nalaney received 1st place humor with her photograph, made semi-finals in showmanship, got 8th place in the skillathon contest, 1st place individual and 1st place team in the judging

Contest, and was 2nd with her Yorkshire gilt.

When asked about showing and NJSA events, she says she greatly enjoys getting to compete with and meet all the other kids. Her favorite contest is judging, which also proved to be her strongest event at this year's NJSS.

"I thank my parents for giving me the opportunity to show, and my big sister who is my best friend," Guyer says.

Show and Sales

All-Around Sweepstakes



Top 7 Novice All-Around Sweepstakes

Front row (l to r): 1st: Lizzie Schafer, Ill.; 2nd: Riley Wendt, Ohio; 3rd: Allison Stoner, Md.; 4th: Ethan Wendt, Ohio; 5th: Nalaney Guyer, Ill.
Back row (l to r): 6th: Chasten McConnell, Pa.; 7th: Gavin Biery, Ohio



Top 10 Junior All-Around Sweepstakes

Front row (l to r): 1st: Maddie Fugate, Ill.; 2nd: Eric Schafer, Ill.; 3rd: Adrian Austin, Ill.; 4th: Megan Mench, Ind.; 5th: Madison Cook, Del.
Back row (l to r): 6th: Peyton Winger, Ind.; 7th: Keri Landry, La.; 8th: Hallie Landry, La.; 9th: Auburn Harvey, Ind.; 10th: Ashtin Guyer, Ill.



Top 10 Intermediate All-Around Sweepstakes

Front row (l to r): 1st: Natalie Hofschulte, Okla.; 2nd: Mindy Cook, Del.; 3rd: Taylor Conley, Pa.; 4th: Garrett Lowes, Ind.; 5th: Allison George, Ala.
Back row (l to r): 6th: Kane Austin, Ill.; 7th: Morgan Mench, Ind.; 8th: Austin Stoner, Md.; 9th: Maddi Butler, Ind.; 10th: Christine Todd, Ill.



Top 4 Senior All-Around Sweepstakes

Front (l to r): 1st: Katherine McCormick, Md.; 2nd: Heather Storer, Ohio; 4th: Caitlin Walton, Del.
(Not pictured: 3rd: Konni Kelso, Texas)



NJSA Foundation Female

Waldo Farms of DeWitt, Neb., donated two Duroc gilts to the National Junior Swine Association Foundation Female program this year.

Thank you to Waldo Farms, for your generous donation, to the Butcher family of Indiana for housing the gilts for the past several weeks, and to Showmaster feeds for supplying feed for these gilts.

The NJSA Foundation Female #1, lot 226-6, was purchased by Lockman Genetics, Kan. for \$2,300. Thank you Lockman Genetics!

The NJSA Foundation Female #2, lot 225-6, went to David Snider & Family, Ind., at the price of \$1,400. Thank you David Snider & Family!

Proceeds from these gilts benefit the NJSA scholarship fund.



NJSA board of junior directors, Sarah Schwab and Cally Hass, and Steve and Brian Lockman after the purchase of the 226-6 NJSA Foundation Female.



NJSA board of junior directors, Sarah Schwab and Cally Hass, and a representative of the David Snider Family the after purchase of the 225-6 NJSA Foundation Female.

2011 NJSA Herdsman of the Year



Gavin Livingston

The NJSA selected Gavin Livingston of Lone Jack, Mo., as the 2011 NJSS Herdsman of the Year. This award is given in honor of the late Dale Miller of Forrest, Ill., and is awarded to an NJSA member who goes above and beyond to help out at NJSA shows.

Livingston, 20, is the son of Cindy Livingston and Mark Livingston. He plans to transfer to Oklahoma State University in the fall to major in animal science, and wants to pursue a master's degree in ag finance or get a law degree. Eventually, Livingston would like to work for a large meat packing company.

Livingston started showing livestock at the age of 5, and has been an NJSA member for two years. He has attended many shows and leadership conferences, and finds a way to volunteer at each event. Livingston also volunteers with special needs children, sharing his livestock with them at special events, and he works with children in the Kansas City foster care system.

Outside of the NJSS, Livingston is currently a member of the Missouri Youth Show Pig Circuit, American Poultry Association, Missouri Llama Association, and Alpaca Llama Show Association. Livingston is the former vice president of the National Silkie (chicken) Breeders Club, and was also his class president, student council president, and secretary of his 4-H Club.

Livingston is passionate about the NJSA. He would love to increase NJSA membership at county fairs and hold state level NJSA leadership conferences.

Show and Sales



Top Three Raffle Sales

1st: Drew Tucker, Ga.; 2nd: Ashton Thompson, Okla.
(Not pictured: 3rd: J.T. Tucker, Ga.)

NJSA Raffle Winners

Item

- One years lease of a bumper pull Exiss Trailer
- WW Paul Scales
- Hilton Garden Inn Hotel Package
- Crowne Plaza Hotel Package
- Rustic Metal Pig Lamp
- Cajun Bling Package
- Hampshire & Showman at WPX Framed Print
- Jewelry Package
- Leather Portfolio
- Miniature Corn Hole Set

Winner

Scott Fleming, Ga.
Kevin Wendt, Ohio
Jean Arambel, Calif.
Jim McCoy, Ohio
Kim Brock, Okla.
JR Fecke, Ill.
Drew Tucker, Ga.
Erin Cleary, Ill.
Annie Domingues, La.
Mandy Wagoner, Ind.

2011 Distinguished Service Award

Tucker Family



The 2011 recipient of the NJSA Distinguished Service Award was the Harry Tucker family from Fitzgerald, Ga. Harry, Christine and Drew played a major role in starting the NJSA Southeast Regional show in Perry, Ga., in 2007.

They have since continued to donate their time each year in order to help make the Southeast Regional a success. As chairmen of the show, they put in many long hours to help with preparation and planning of the event.

The family is always willing to help with NJSA activities and support the organization in any way they can, including selling a record number of tickets for the NJSA Raffle for three consecutive years. Whether it's finding volunteers, helping with check-in, working the ring, or

donating feed samples for the Skillathon, the Tucker family can always be counted on to show up, work hard, and have a great attitude while doing so.

Thank you Harry, Christine and Drew Tucker for all your dedication to the NJSA.

53 items = \$2,753

Silent Auction

Top 5 High-Selling Items

<u>Item</u>	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
Pig Quilt	Lynda Anderson	Sandi Shipley	\$310
Yorkshire Model from Wilbur Plager estate	Dan & Sandy Baker	Jill Frunk	\$200
Maryland State Fair Ribbons 1933, 1939, 1940	Ralph & Becky Doak	Dylan Evans	\$175
1995 Bound Volume <i>Seedstock EDGE</i>	Kevin & Megan Wendt	Chris George	\$125
Ohio Products Basket	Ohio NJSA Kids	Brooke Bowman	\$100

NJSS Silent Auction Donors

Lynda Anderson	Denhart's Feed & Merchantile	Kris Vogel of Signature Signs	Rozeboom Family
Barb Peace	Dick Nash & Family	Landry Family	Sarah Cherney
Boudreaux Farms	Heather Storer	Michigan Exhibitors	Sue & Mike Paul
Cassie Holloway	Hofschulte Show Pigs & Sires	Ohio NJSA Kids	Tamara Choat
Cheyenne Willy	Jonell Malcolm	Ralph & Becky Doak	The Keller Family
Chris Wintrow	Justin & Jessica McElhenny	Real McCoy Genetics	The Sterle Family
Dan & Sandy Baker	Kevin & Megan Wendt	Riley & Ethan Wendt	Tonya Fender

33 lots = \$6,702

Super Semen Auction

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Buyer</u>	<u>Price</u>
A Cut Above	Jordan Leatherman	\$160
Cain's Super Sires	Stephen Linnebur	\$330
Cedar Ridge	Chad Andrews	\$100
Center Prairie Genetics	Tyler Berens	\$110
Crossroads Genetics	Matt Hammens	\$250
Cutting Edge Showpig Sires	Justin Grinstead	\$400
Duelm's Prevailing Genetics	Mark Ottenwalter	\$400
Grimm Quality Purebreds	Stephen Linnebur	\$150
Hi Point Genetics	Gary Funkhouser	\$460
Hofschulte Sires	Joe Roberts	\$80
Kilmer Swine Farm	Rick Ullery	\$175
Kuecker Seedstock	Joe Walker	\$50
Lean Value Sires	Jennifer Knick	\$180
Olsen Yorkshires-Chuck & Ben Olsen	Stephen Linnebur	\$150
RAR Genetics	Gary Funkhouser	\$105
Real Hog Farm	Anderson	\$50
Real McCoy Genetics	Dean Hass	\$175
Rodibaugh's	Kevin Pfautz	\$75
RW Genetics	Stephen Linnebur	\$150
RW Genetics	Gary Spurgin	\$130
Shaffer's Gold Rush	NC Enterprises	\$225
Shipley Swine Genetics	Micah Davidson	\$275
Showtime Sires	Larry Thorsen	\$275
Small Town Genetics	Julie Vorpapel	\$85
Southern Advantage Sires	Curtis Dehaven	\$100
Steve Cobb & Family	James Luckman	\$425
Swine Genetics International	John Warrick	\$300
Thompson Bros. Genetics	Dan Goehring	\$150
Tom Moyer & Family	Chad Reynolds	\$500
Top Cut Genetics	NC Enterprises	\$310
Triple B Sires	NC Enterprises	\$110
Turning Point Sires	Rodney Schueth	\$42
Upperhand Genetics	Matt Hammens	\$225

NJSA Board of Directors



2010-2011 Board of Directors

Front row (l to r): Rae Jean White, Ind.; Kaylee Miller, Ind.; Rebecca Bailey, Calif.; Bailey Albright, Mich.
Back row (l to r): Hallie Frobose, Ohio; Alicia Keller, N.Y.; Miles Toeynes, Ill.; Mackenzie Langemeier, Texas; Kayla Meyer, Ill.

Six new directors were elected to serve on the 2011-2012 NJSA Board of Directors. Candidates gave speeches at the NJSS opening ceremony on Wednesday, June 29, and elections took place Thursday, June 30, and Friday, July 1. Winners were announced at the annual meeting Friday night.

Gregory Krahn, 20, of West Bend, Wis., will serve as the new Central Region director. He is the son of Ron and Eileen Krahn. Krahn will be a senior at Western Illinois University this fall, and he competes on the WIU livestock judging team.

The two new Eastern Region directors that will join the board are Matthew Morrison, 19, of Conewango Valley, N.Y., and Tonya Fender, 18, of Lynchburg, Ohio. Morrison is the son of David and Margie Morrison. He attends Black Hawk-East College and plans to transfer to a four-year university to study swine genetics or agricultural education. Fender is the daughter of Gary and Connie Fender. She plans to attend Lake Land College in the fall to study ag business and ag communications.

The new Western Region director will be Corey Carpenter, 20, of Red Bluff, Calif. Carpenter is the son of David and Mary



2011-2012 Board of Directors

Front row (l to r): Tonya Fender, Ohio; Kaylee Miller, Ind.; Mackenzie Langemeier, Texas; Amy Newnum, Ind.
Back row (l to r): NJSA Director, Cally Hass, Matthew Morrison, N.Y.; Corey Carpenter, Calif.; Gregory Krahn, Wis.; David Ammann, Ill.; NJSA Activities Coordinator, Sarah Schwab. (Not pictured: Kayla Meyer, Ill.)

Carpenter. He plans to transfer to California State-Chico or Oklahoma State University in the fall to study animal science.

Amy Newnum, 19, and David Ammann, 19, will join the team as the new at-large directors. Newnum is the daughter of Harold and Dawn Newnum. She is a sophomore at Purdue University studying ag finance. Ammann is the son of Mike and Shari Ammann. He will be a sophomore at Lake Land College in the fall, and then plans to transfer to a four-year university to study animal science.

These six talented young people will join Secretary Kayla Meyer, Ill., Vice President Kaylee Miller, Ind., and President Mackenzie Langemeier, Texas on the 2011-2012 NJSA Board.

Thank you and congratulations on a job well done to the retiring 2010-2011 NJSA officers: President Rebecca Bailey, Calif., Vice President Alicia Keller, N.Y., Secretary Bailey Albright, Mich., Eastern Region director Hallie Frobose, Ohio, and at-large director Miles Toeynes, Ill.

The NJSA Board helps plan and run NJSA shows and events. For more information on the junior board contact Cally Hass at 765.463.3594.



Central Region

Gregory Krahn
West Bend, Wis.



Eastern Region

Matthew Morrison
Conewango Valley, N.Y.



Eastern Region

Tonya Fender
Lynchburg, Ohio



Western Region

Corey Carpenter
Red Bluff, Calif.



At-Large

Amy Newnum
Kingman, Ind.



At-Large

David Ammann
Highland, Ill.

MVP Party

The MVP Party on Tuesday night was a great way to kick off the week. More than 50 young exhibitors attended the event, where they got the chance to meet their mentors and play carnival games with a bunch of clowns. To become a mentor or sign up to be a protégé contact Sarah Schwab at sarah@nationalswine.com or 765.463.3594.



Scholarship Winners

Jason Shipley Memorial Scholarship



Bailey Farrer, Ind., accepts the Jason Shipley Memorial Scholarship from the Shipley family at the NJSS.

NJSA Visionary Leader Scholarship



Rebecca Bailey, Calif., accepts the NJSA Visionary Leader Scholarship at the NJSS.

Not Pictured:
Claude Robinson Memorial Scholarship
 Awarded to Troy Sloan, Mo.

If you would like more information on how to apply for NJSA scholarships please visit www.nationalswine.com and go to the About NJSA page, or contact Cally Hass at 765.463.3594.

Show and Sales

Scholarship Winners

Hallie Frobose of Pemberville, Ohio, and Austin Langemeier of Marion, Texas, were announced as the winners of The Maschhoffs Pork Production Scholarships during the NJSS. Applicants were required to write a 750- to 1,000-word essay discussing "The Major Challenge/Opportunity for Tomorrow's Pork Industry." The winners will also complete a one-week internship at The Maschhoffs, headquartered in Carlyle, Ill. The winning essays are printed below.

The Major Challenge/Opportunity for Tomorrow's Pork Industry

By Austin Langemeier, Marion, Texas

The major challenge facing the U.S. pork industry is food safety. Today's pork industry is largely made up of integrated pork systems, which face the very tough challenge of providing for a growing global population of demanding consumers. They have tougher expectations wanting a wholesome, delicious product, free of any residues in our "Be Inspired" marketing campaign. Over the past decade, there have been a few foodborne outbreaks that create public outcry at the consumer level. Today we face numerous financially demanding pressures that put environmental, legislative and political expenses to provide a nearly perfect product with zero tolerance at the household table. We see growing political pressure within the swine industry to place significant new restrictions on the production management protocols to create top shelf products at the retail chain level. Food safety is largely focused on providing zero tolerance for residue in the pork chain and strict health strategies before pork is harvested in strict adherence to zero bacteria levels in our processing facilities. The pork harvesting and further processing of swine is crucial to avoid foodborne illnesses such as Salmonella and reducing Trichinosis in the pork. These two organisms along with other parasites can be introduced from any stage from your farm through the processor, distributor, retailer or food service establishment, and finally to the consumer. Being aware that we, as producers, are a part of nearly every stage in the cycle allows us to have the chance of reducing the risk of these diseases being admitted to the product that we as producers contribute to the industry, let alone the commercial side that is responsible for 97 percent or more of U.S. pork.

From fence to fork as pork producers, our main goal is to provide a wholesome, healthy product for consumers worldwide. This challenge, whether we are large scale producers or small pork producers like me, does create the exact same challenge. It starts with keeping our U.S. sow

herd population healthy through eradication of serious diseases that affect our production outcomes and our income. As a purebred swine breeder raising showpigs, I know that our segment of the industry is small in numbers (less than 3 percent of the total), but needs to be implementing many of the same requirements to reach the same food safety goals. We strive to market swine that are well cared for and taken to market residue free, as we learned in Pork Quality Assurance training, and traceable with my farm Premise ID program. By working together, we can maintain or enhance our producer profits at all levels of production systems. If every producer does their share, we will avoid any public relations incidences that put negative pressures on our profit margins and global exports.

All of this considered, as producers, we can take this challenge and turn it into an opportunity to educate all producers of the importance of food safety and creating a product that is healthy and profitable, and would then avoid issues that may arise due to a foodborne illness. Food safety has become one of the biggest challenges for producers to maintain along with producing animals that are cost effective and efficient. Maintaining animals in a clean and healthy environment is one of the very simple things that can in turn cause animals to remain healthier and become high-quality product in the end. As producers, we need to be advocates of agriculture, in the sense that producing animals that are healthy and enter the food chain is a minor part that is still very crucial in the everyday life of the pork industry. I can do my part every day by documenting all medications provided in my small sow herd, showpigs and lead by example to young 4-H and FFA members in my community and state. In addition, we can maintain a strong client relationship with our veterinarian to discuss best management practices to create a



Madison Langemeier (left) accepts The Maschhoff's Scholarship from Angie Bowman for her brother, Austin. Austin Langemeier was unable to attend the awards ceremony due to prior engagements.

fast growing, healthy and desirable end product.

In conclusion, the pork industry has been increasingly more successful with export demands of pork and international expansion of live swine sales, which are leading to better price discovery for all producers. As producers, let's face this challenge and take our personal responsibility to raise animals that are healthy all their life and in turn make good protein for the consumer. Pork is widely consumed due to ethnic popularity, consistency improvement and value vs. many protein sources. Our food safety issues of the past could have easily been avoided with better management practices, improved communication and proper records of those animals. It may be difficult for some to embrace the change or opportunity we face, but our responsibility and moral requirements make it mandatory for us to work with our state and national associations to get new consumers to "Be Inspired" as our new campaign suggests. The National Pork Producer Council has been a tremendous catalyst for all segments of the pork industry to work together on common themes such as producer education, pork safety awareness and member training on a multitude of issues, so let's continue our support and unify the U.S. production systems to accomplish greater profits of a healthy wholesome delicious protein – PORK!

From Fence to Fork

By Hallie Frobose, Pemberville, Ohio

As Americans, we have the luxury of knowing where our food comes from and how it is raised at a minimal cost due to modern production systems. However, with such an increase in curiosity and technology, many organizations and consumers are questioning our industry's practices. Therefore, I believe the greatest issue livestock production is faced with today is extremist groups such as the Humane Society of the United States, that will sway our consumers decisions and votes, which can eventually change the way we produce food for a growing world if we don't soon start bridging the gap from fence to fork.

We all recognize PETA for their extremist opinions and protests against livestock production, however it is becoming more and more apparent that our greatest concern lies with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). This organization takes advantage of a name that leads the average American to believe that they are associated with local animal shelters. The HSUS is excellent at jerking at the heart strings of modern Americans, who end up funding lobbyist agendas focused on eradicating animal agriculture. It is a known fact that the HSUS' budget is focused towards funding legal battles and CEO salaries, and that less than 0.5 percent is spent to actually help those puppies and kittens seen on TV. In fact, 59 percent of Americans believe that HSUS gives most of its money to pet shelters. The HSUS has been behind every major piece of legislation regarding animal care and they are already having major impacts already on agriculture. In California, Ohio, and Missouri experienced livestock producers and dog breeders must now farm and raise animals in such a way that inexperienced HSUS representatives see fit, due to their new laws and regulations. These ballot initiatives are what truly scare me, a livestock producer, because the majority of our voters are multiple generations removed from agriculture and they genuinely believe that Wal-Mart creates the meat they eat. These ballot initiatives give substantial power to large numbers of voters who do not understand modern production practices or the science behind them, and we cannot afford to let others make these decisions for us.

We have all seen people today who carry around their pets in purses or in

a stroller and call them their 'child' or 'fur baby.' They are educated voters, but still do not understand that pets are not children, and pigs are not pets. The average American doesn't want to read legislative proposals, as these documents are generally several hundred pages long and who has that kind of time? This is where HSUS finds the advantage; they convince voters that voting on this issue will help animals and reduce pain and suffering. Their efforts focus on convincing consumers that what we are doing is wrong, and that there is something they can do about it, even though many consumers are unaware of the whole truth or the science behind our practices. HSUS is telling our consumers that we are raising our livestock in such cruel and negative ways while raping the land. As livestock producers we know this is not true; how do we convince our consumers?

It is of the utmost importance that we tell our story and the positives aspects of modern livestock production, so that important decisions are not made for us. In 50 years, the world population will require 100 percent more food, and 70 percent of this food must come from new efficiency-improving technologies and practices. If we continue down a road where extremist driven requirements set the standard for our production systems via ballot initiatives, there will be no way to reach this quota. We have tried to share our story and explain the facts, but let's be honest – most of us have the attention of a goldfish, so why would some stranger be interested in why you castrate without sedatives? We must come up with a new approach.

As a NJSA board director and college student, I recognize the need to help battle these issues as an advocate for agriculture. I have used every branch possible by going to seminars, taking advocacy classes, and by using social media to spread my story as a livestock producer to bridge the gap from fence to fork. I believe that there is a great need for advocates in the livestock industries and by combining our efforts with technology and employing some tactics from the HSUS playbook, we can persevere these challenging times. I have heard many people's opinions about advocating and there are many



The Maschhoffs scholarship winner Hallie Frobose (left) accepts the award from Angie Bowman representing The Maschhoffs.

different approaches that we can take. We can provide the facts and science behind our methods, we can take the high road and avoid verbally attacking animal rights extremists, or we can do things that get noticed. We all know that scandals and negative viewpoints are what end up splashed across the front page of the *New York Times* and litter the 6 o'clock news.

Obviously we do not want any negativity about agriculture on the front page, but we can use tactics similar to that of HSUS's to grab our consumer's attention. We must let our consumers know that it is okay to eat meat and there is no reason to feel guilty about it. We can achieve this through simple acts; wearing t-shirts that make a statement such as Pigs Do Not Equal Pets, or posting a funny video on Facebook that pokes fun at the hypocrisy of HSUS. I recently attended a conference where Dr. Wes Jamison was speaking about his views and heard him mention how radical it would be to gather 250 FFA members, all wearing their blue jackets, to start line dancing during Wayne Pacelle's opening speech at the annual HSUS meeting. No, maybe that is not exactly what we should do, but it is a perfect way to peacefully get notice. The fact is there are many ways to advocate for agriculture whether it is discussing what you do with a stranger on a plane, blogging, or passing out meat samples on campus. These are the steps we must start taking to ensure our futures in livestock production. What we need to do is prepare and get used to answering questions through TV, radio, press, and social media so that we can serve as properly educated advocates to help bridge the gap from fence to fork.

Show and Sales

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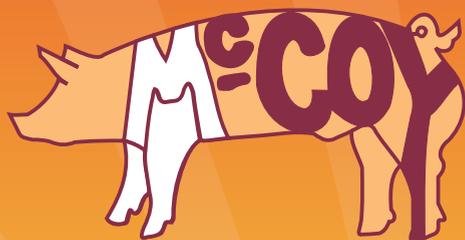
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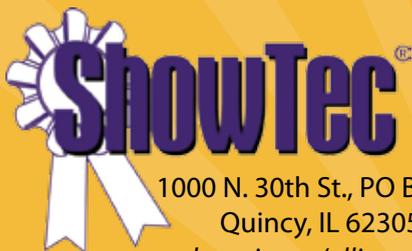
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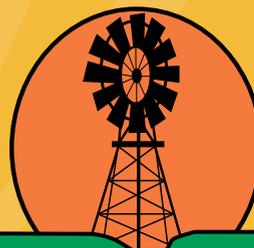
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