NATIONAL JUNIOR SHORTHORN SHOW
PLANNING GUIDE

everything you need to know before you go!

UPCOMING DEADLINES

April 10	AJSA Junior Board Applications Due
May 1	AJSA Scholarship Applications Due
May 1	Entry Deadline NJSS
May 15	Ownership Deadline NJSS
May 15	Late Entry Deadline NJSS
May 15	Photo, Graphic Design, Career Development, Speech, Promo Video Entries due online via contest form

AJSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Samantha VanVorhis, President
Mackenlee Evans, Vice-President
Hannah Wetzel, Secretary
Audrey Robertson, Public Relations Chair
Jay Allen, Fundraising Coordinator
Victoria Thompson, Director
Cole Brus, Director
Nathan Hill, Director
Jack Jordan, Director

NATIONAL JUNIOR SHORTHORN SHOW AND YOUTH CONFERENCE

SCHEDULE

2026 TRAILBLAZING TO TEXAS
National Junior Shorthorn Show & Youth Conference

ABILENE TEXAS JUNE 20 27
TAYLOR COUNTY EXPO CENTER

SATURDAY JUNE 20

5 PM	CATTLE ALLOWED IN THE TIE-OUTS
5 PM	TACK ALLOWED IN THE BARNS

SUNDAY JUNE 21

8 AM	CATTLE ALLOWED IN BARNS
1 PM	*MCKENZIE RANCH* CAREER DEVELOPMENT CONTEST *(AO)*
3 PM	JUNIOR BOARD CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS
4:30 PM	*JVT LIVESTOCK* WRITTEN TEST *(DB)*
6 PM	JR BOARD, CANDIDATE & STAFF MEETING

MONDAY JUNE 22

8 AM	CATTLE MUST BE STALLED
8 - 11:30 AM	EXHIBITOR/CONTEST *AND* CATTLE CHECK-IN *(SR)*
10 AM	STATE ADVISOR PACKETS DUE ONLINE
12 PM	YOUTH CONFERENCE I *(ALL YOUTH INVITED) (SR)*
1 PM	MENTOR-APPRENTICE *(SR)*
1:30 PM	*HILLSIDE FARM* SPEECH CONTEST (PI:DB , PII BCH: , INT: MLM, SR: RB)
4 PM	LINE UP FOR STATE PHOTOS
5:15 PM	OPENING CEREMONIES *(SR)*
6:45 PM	MEAL SERVED

TUESDAY JUNE 23

7:30 AM	BREAKFAST *SPONSORED BY GKB CATTLE*
8 AM	*ERIC SUPPLY CO. W/ UMBARGER* TEAM SALESMANSHIP (PI/PII: SR, INT: DB , SR: BCH)
9 AM	LASSIE BINGO CARD HAND OUT
10 AM	LASSIE TEA *(RB)*
11 AM	SHORTHORN SIDEKICKS *SPONSORED BY V8 (BCH)*
12 PM	YOUTH CONFERENCE II LUNCH - *(DELEGATES ONLY) (NWC)* YC II - *SPONSORED BY MERCK ANIMAL HEALTH*
1 PM	*KRUSE RANCH* BEEF COOK-OFF CONTEST *(BCH)*
2 PM	LASSIE 101 *(RB)*
3 PM	*GYPSY CREEK RANCH* QUIZ BOWL *(ALL TEAMS MEET AT BCH)*
4 PM	LASSIE ICE CREAM SOCIAL & BINGO CARDS DUE
6 PM	JR BOARD CANDIDATES STALL CRAWL SOCIAL

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24

8 AM	*SULLIVAN SUPPLY* SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST *R1: SENIOR, PII R2: INT., PI*
2:30 PM	SHORTHORN SIDEKICKS *SPONSORED BY V8*
3 PM	SS STOCK SHOW UNIVERSITY *(SR)*
3-6 PM	SYDF SHINDIG - *ADULTS ONLY, NWC*

ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

THURSDAY JUNE 25

8 AM	R1: BRED & OWNED PUREBRED BULL SHOW, PUREBRED PROSPECT & MARKET STEER R2: SHORTHORNPLUS BRED & OWNED BULL SHOW, SHORTHORNPLUS PROSPECT & MARKET STEERS
12 PM	YOUTH CONFERENCE III *(DELEGATES) (NWC)*
1:15 PM	*SULLIVAN SUPPLY* FITTING CONTEST *(SR)*
4:30 PM	*V8 SHORTHORNS* JUDGING CONTEST *(SR)*
7 PM	TAILGATE PARTY & CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

FRIDAY JUNE 26

8 AM	R1: BRED & OWNED PUREBRED FEMALE SHOW, BRED & OWNED SHORTHORNPLUS FEMALE SHOW R2: SHORTHORNPLUS FEMALE SHOW
1:30 PM	R2: EDGE SHOW *(OR 30 MINUTES AFTER SHORTHORNPLUS FEMALE SHOW)*
3:30 PM	MENTOR-APPRENTICE CHUTE TOSS
5:30 PM	AWARDS MEAL BEGINS SERVING (R)
6 PM	AWARDS CEREMONY (R)

SATURDAY JUNE 27

8 AM	PUREBRED FEMALE SHOW
12 PM	RELEASE OF ALL PROJECTS

ALL CATTLE MUST BE STALLED IN THE BARNS FROM AT LEAST 8 AM TO 5 PM
MONDAY, JUNE 22 - FRIDAY, JUNE 26 AND STALLED SATURDAY DURING SHOW

LOCATION KEY

- DISPLAY BUILDING (DB)
- BIG COUNTRY HALL (BCH)
- MODERN LIVING MALL (MLM)
- ROUND BUILDING (RB)
- ADMIN OFFICE (AO)
- COLISEUM SHOW RING (SR)
- NW CORNER COLISEUM (NWC)

ENTRY FEES & DEADLINES

- Online entries will include entry fee (per show) and stalling/bedding fee for each animal in the barns and tieouts, exhibitor fee, and additional options.
- Entries must be paid online at time of entry or they will not be processed. There will be NO refunds on entries. See General Rule #6.
- Entry fee is $45 per show entry if completed by the deadline of May 1.
- If you are showing an animal in more than one show it must be entered for each show.
- There is a $60 stalling/bedding fee per head. This includes stalling and tieout bedding.
- ***Exhibitors must pay the $30 exhibitor fee during online entry. Exhibitor fee includes: show shirt and contest fee. Meal tickets are no longer part of the exhibitor fee and must be purchased seperately.***
- No show entries after final deadline of May 15, 2026.
- No entry substitutions allowed after May 15, 2026.
- All animals must be registered in the sole name of the junior member who will be showing.
- Ownership deadline is May 15, 2026. (No farm or family names allowed)

ENTRY FEES

Entry Fee: $45

Late Entry Fee: $80
after May 1

Bedding Fee: $60
includes barn and tieout bedding

Late Bedding Fee: $70
includes barn and tieout bedding

Exhibitor Fee: $30
includes t-shirt and contest fee (meals not included)

Meal Ticket - Opening Ceremony: $25
Meal Ticket - Awards Ceremony: $25

Extra Shirts: $15

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- Cattle will be allowed on the fairgrounds on Saturday, June 20, in tie outs ONLY after 5:00 p.m. Cattle will be allowed in barns after 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 21.
- All cattle must tie out in designated area. You can not tie outside during the day after check-in is completed. All cattle must stay on grounds and in the barns during the day.
- Must bring registration papers and health papers to the show for check-in.
- We will not verify tattoos at check-in but animals tattoo must match the corresponding registration papers. Entries not matching will be disqualified from show. See general rule #9.
- ONLY steers will be weighed at check-in. Scales will not be available before check-in.
- Individual contests including showmanship, speech and career development contests MUST be entered during online entry. **Showmanship and livestock judging entries will not be accepted at junior national.**
- All other individual contests must be entered by going through contest registration, Monday, June 22, starting at 8:00 a.m. You will also pick-up your show shirts.
- Group contests will be entered by state advisors. They will be provided the group sign-up form to return to the junior director and interns.
- Exhibitors who have purchased meal tickets will receive their tickets in their check-in packet.
- Electricity – People should come prepared with generators and extension cords. All generators must be housed outside.
- No generators or gas cans will be allowed inside the barn and must meet local fire codes for inspection by fire marshall.
- Exhibitors are reminded that portacools and butt fans are not allowed in the barns.
- Pets are allowed on the fairgrounds, but NOT in the arena/show ring area for any reason or at any time.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited. In accordance with grounds policy and this youth event, consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
- If the junior member is unable to show their animal due illness or health, follow the procedure in the show rules. See General Rules #4, #5, #13.
- Animals will NOT be allowed to enter the show ring after the judge has given the signal to walk. See general show rule #18.
- ALL digital contest entries must be submitted by May 15 via the online contest form.
- There have been some contest rule changes. Be sure to carefully read rules to know all the updates!

Is it Your Last JUNIOR NATIONAL?

For those "senior" AJSA members, email shelby@shorthorn.org. You will receive an email with questions to answer for us to include in the exhibitor folder!

SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year AJSA members are eligible to apply for several college scholarships. Applications can be found at shorthorn.org and are due by May 1st, 2026. Scholarships will be awarded at the 2026 National Junior Shorthorn Show & Youth Conference.

Please note that scholarship candidates may only apply up to three scholarships offered by The Shorthorn Foundation. Therefore, please complete the applications that apply to your qualifications the best. You cannot win the same scholarship more than once.

Mike Dugdale Memorial Scholarship
The $2,000 Dugdale Scholarship is awarded to a collegiate upperclassman who is an active AJSA member with a sincere interest in bettering the beef cattle industry after college.

John C. "Jack" Ragsdale Scholarship
The $2,000 Jack Ragsdale Scholarship is awarded to a high school senior or college freshman who is an active AJSA member with a sincere interest in learning how to evaluate livestock and an appreciation for the purebred livestock industry.

Don Longley Memorial Scholarships
Each year four $2,000 Longley Memorial Scholarships are awarded. The scholarships are sponsored by The Shorthorn Foundation and awarded to high school seniors or college freshmen based upon Shorthorn involvement, grades, need, and participation in other activities.

Lyle & Katharyn DeWitt Memorial Scholarship
The $2,000 Lyle and Katharyn DeWitt Memorial Scholarship is sponsored by The Shorthorn Foundation and awarded to high school seniors or college freshmen based upon Shorthorn involvement, grades, need, and participation in other activities.

Jared & Justin Bedwell Memorial Scholarship
The $2,000 Jared & Justin Bedwell Memorial Scholarship is sponsored by the family of Jared & Justin Bedwell in cooperation with The Shorthorn Foundation and awarded to a high school senior, college freshman or college sophomore based upon the applicants' involvement, future goals and career plans in Agriculture, college GPA, and character references.

John Miller Scholarship
The $2,500 John Miller Scholarship is awarded to the collegiate upperclassman (including trade schools) who is an active AJSA member with an emphasis to be placed on the recipient having interest in making Shorthorns more viable in the commercial cattle industry.

Shorthorn Foundation Scholarship
One $4,000 Scholarship will be awarded to a college junior, senior, or graduate student, based upon how the AJSA/Shorthorn Industry helped shape where you are today and your future goals and career plans in Agriculture, College GPA will be considered and the applicant must be a current or previous (due to age) AJSA Member.

White Fox Ranch Scholarship
Two $5,000 Scholarships will be awarded (one male and one female) to current AJSA members who are high school seniors or undergraduate students pursuing a degree in agriculture or veterinary medicine. Must demonstrate interest in serving rural communities and the cattle industry and submit a two-part essay (750–1,000 words), resume, and letter of recommendation. Preference may be given to applicants showing strong leadership, service, and mentorship within the beef industry.

ACCOMODATIONS

MCM Elegante Suites
4250 Ridgemont Dr, Abilene, Texas

Double Full or King | $124 (1-2 ppl) or $129 (3-4 ppl) + fees & taxes

Amenities: Honest to Goodness Two Room Suite, Complimentary full cooked-to-order breakfast, Free evening manager's reception from 5:30-7 p.m., Free Internet Access

Cancellation Policy: Any individual guest room cancellation made within 48 hours of the arrival date will be subject to a $50 per day cancellation fee.
Phone to Book: 325-698-1234

SHOW JUDGES

Owned Show: Donnie Robertson
Bred & Owned Show: Todd Herman
ShorthornPlus: Jon Sweeney
E.D.G.E. Show: Ryan Rathmann

Showmanship: Joe & Joelynn Rathmann
Adam & Lindsey Hall

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

1. **Electronic Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI)** issued by an accredited veterinarian within 30 days prior to entry into Texas. Vets can contact 512.719.0777 for CVI requirements.
2. **Official Identification:** All animals must have 840 tags for official ID
3. **Testing**: Bulls that are 12 months and older at any point during the week of the NJSS must be trichomoniasis (trich) tested within 60 days of the event. *This is the only rule not required for cattle in the state of Texas*
4. **Cow Calf Pairs** – If the calf at side is under 6 months of age, put 'calf at side' on CVI.

For questions, contact the Texas State Veterinarian's Office. Phone number is 512.719.0777 or email permits@tahc.texas.gov.

The NJSS does not have any additional health requirements, other than follow the TX Health requirements.

FACILITY INFO

Taylor County Expo Center
1700 HWY 36, Abilene, Texas :: GPS - 1801 E S 11th St, Abilene, Texas

GIVING BACK

Help us give back to the community that is hosting Junior National by donating school supplies for local students! We encourage exhibitors and families to bring new, unused school supplies to donate during the week. Each donated item will count as one item toward your state's total. For example, one spiral notebook equals one item, one pack of colored pencils equals one item, one pack of markers equals one item, and one pack of pens equals one item.

Please make sure all donated supplies are brand new, unused, and in their original packaging. We kindly ask that no used supplies be donated, including partially used notebooks, opened packages, promotional or trade show pens, and giveaway items.

All donated items will be tallied and totaled by state. Totals will be calculated using the percentage of exhibitors attending from each state, giving everyone a fair chance to participate. Thank you for helping us make a difference in the community hosting Junior National!The top 5 states will win the following points (1st - 8 pts; 2nd - 6 pts; 3rd - 4 pts; 5th - 1 pt) towards the Outstanding State Junior Association.

This will be in place of the sock drive.

2026 SHOW CLASSIFICATIONS

HEIFER CLASSIFICATIONS

Entry in this show binds the exhibitor to all regulations pertaining to the National Junior Shorthorn Show and ASA National Shows. Divisions are the same for all female shows. (Purebred Owned, Purebred Bred & Owned, ShorthornPlus Owned, ShorthornPlus Bred & Owned). Divisions will not be broken or combined. These will be the divisions used for the NJSS female shows, regardless of how many classes are in each division. Be sure to check the Rules & Regulations for show rules on Bred & Owned Show AND ShorthornPlus Qualifications. *ShorthornPlus Females must be 50% or higher to qualify to show*

Division I: *Junior Heifer Calves:* January – March 2026

Division II: *Winter Heifer Calves:* November – December 2025

Division III: *Senior Heifer Calves:* September – October 2025

Division IV: *Summer Yearling Females:* May – August 2025

Division V: *Early Spring Yearling Females:* April 2025

Division VI: *Early Spring Yearling Females:* March 2025

Division VII: *Junior Yearling Females:* February 2025

Division VIII: *Junior Yearling Females:* January 2025

Division IX: *Senior Yearling Females:* September – December 2024

Division X: *Cow-Calf Pairs:* August 2024 and older

Heifers 20 months of age and older, without a calf at side, may be subject to a blood sample collection to verify pregnancy. In heifers 20 months of age and older, if pregnancy cannot be verified, the heifer will be subject to the rules under ASA Rules & Regulations (Rule VI, Section 1, Rule B)

BULL CLASSIFICATIONS

Entry in this show binds the exhibitor to all regulations pertaining to the National Junior Shorthorn Show and ASA National Shows. Divisions are the same for both bull shows. (Purebred Bred & Owned, ShorthornPlus Bred & Owned). Divisions will not be broken or combined. These will be the divisions used for the NJSS bull shows, regardless of how many classes are in each division. All bulls must be Bred & Owned by the individual exhibitor. *ShorthornPlus Bulls must be 50% or higher to qualify to show*

Division I: January – March 2026

Division II: September – December 2025

Division III: May – August 2025

Division IV: January – April 2025

Division V: January – December 2024

STEER CLASSIFICATIONS

Entry in this show binds the exhibitor to all regulations pertaining to the National Junior Shorthorn Show and ASA National Shows. Classifications are the same for all steer shows. Purebred and ShorthornPlus Steers will show separately. Check Rules and Regulations for all rules on steer shows.

Prospect Steers: Steers weighing 1000 lbs and less
Bred & Owned Prospect Steers: Steers weighing 1000 lbs and less
Market Steers: Steers weighing 1001 lbs and more
Bred & Owned Market Steers: Steers weighing 1001 lbs and more

E.D.G.E. SHOW CLASSIFICATIONS

Entry in this show binds the exhibitor to all regulations pertaining to the National Junior Shorthorn Show and ASA National Shows. This show is only for Purebred females. Divisions will not be broken or combined. These will be the divisions used for the NJSS E.D.G.E. shows, regardless of how many classes are in each division. All E.D.G.E cattle must meet E.D.G.E. show rules. *Find rules on competing in the E.D.G.E show under NJSS Rules & Regulations*

Division I: January – March 2026

Division II: September – December 2025

Division III: May – August 2025

Division IV: January – April 2025

Division V: September – December 2024

STOCK SHOW UNIVERSITY

Stock Show University is a FREE educational clinic open to all stock show youth and adults, compliments of Sullivan Supply. A clinic will be hosted during Shorthorn Junior Nationals. This is all free of charge! Focus will be on showmanship, feeding, daily hair and animal care, show day grooming, and how to achieve that champion look, taught by the best and most talented 'professors' in the business. For more information visit sullivansupply.com.

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

All exhibitors, parents, legal guardians, employees, or agents, as a condition of participation, release and forfeit all legal rights to bring litigation in any form or jurisdiction against the American Shorthorn Association (ASA), its Board of Directors, employees, or show officials for claims arising in any manner from the enforcement or interpretation of ASA, AJSA, or NJSS rules and policies.

General Rules & Regulations

1. Exhibitors must be paid members of the AJSA and must be 7 as of January 1, 2026 and not had their 22nd birthday as of January 1, 2026.
2. Entries must be submitted online ONLY; paper entries are not accepted.
3. Entries must be completed by May 1, 2026. Late entries are accepted after May 1 and no later than May 15, 2026. Late entries will have a higher entry fee.
4. Entry substitutions will be allowed until the May 15 deadline. Absolutely no entries online or substituted past May 15.
5. Entries received with a pending registration number MUST provide the registration number by the late deadline of May 15 or your entries will be considered incomplete. You will not be able to show incomplete animal entries. You will not receive refunds for incomplete animals. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to provide registration numbers at the time of entry. ALL animals must be registered by May 1.
6. Animals must be officially registered to the ONE individual junior member who will be showing it at Junior Nationals by the ownership deadline of May 15, 2026, to be eligible to show. NO farm name allowed.
7. No refunds of entries for any reason. All submitted entries must be paid in full to be eligible to show.
8. You must have registration papers for all animals at check-in. Digital copies are accepted. Physical copies are preferred.
9. Follow all state health requirements for the location of the show. Bring current health papers to check-in. It is the exhibitor's responsibility to check and comply with health regulations. The AJSA is not responsible for any animals that do not meet requirements. No refunds will be issued for animals that do not meet requirements.
10. Each animal exhibited must have a tattoo that matches its registration papers. Tattoos may not be checked during check-in, but entries found with mismatched or missing tattoos at any point during the show will be disqualified. Show officials reserve the right to inspect tattoos at any time.
11. Steer weigh-in will be conducted at check-in. The scales will only be available at check-in, no weighing before. We do not have a weigh back. The weight per day of age may be given to judge.
12. All animals exhibiting at the NJSS are subject to DNA testing at any time during the NJSS. All Champion and Reserve Champion Divisions and show Champions and Reserve Champions will be subject to DNA testing. This will be done at the completion of each show.
13. All members of the AJSA attending the Junior National are expected to conduct themselves in a manner becoming an AJSA member and to follow the on-site directives of the facility, ASA staff, and/or host state. Violations of these standards include, but are not limited to: misrepresentation of animals, vandalism, theft, fighting, unsportsmanlike conduct, failure to comply with the directives of officials, intoxication or use of prohibited substances, or willful violation of rules. Failure to adhere to these regulations may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to expulsion from the event, at the discretion of ASA staff and/or the ASA Executive Board. By submitting an NJSS online entry, all exhibitors agree that no litigation in any form or jurisdiction may be brought to resolve any issue or dispute regarding the rules and regulations of the ASA, AJSA, or NJSS. All decisions made by ASA or AJSA boards and staff are final.
14. Exhibitors must show his/her own animals unless excused by the ASA Junior Activities Director. Only exhibitors who attend the Junior National and are physically unable to show the animals due to illness or injury, with a doctor's note as confirmation, will be excused. The animal may be shown only by an AJSA member who is entered to show at the NJSS. Written explanation and doctor's note must be given to the ASA Junior Activities Director before the show in cases of illness or injury. If the exhibitor has more than one entry in the same class, they must use a second showman who is entered to exhibit at the NJSS.
15. Exhibitors are NOT permitted to have help or assistance handling their animals from anyone but show officials unless they have a physical or mental handicap or are otherwise impaired. Size/age alone is not considered a valid impairment. All exhibitors who meet the qualifications for allowing assistance and plan to do so must give prior notification to the ASA Director of Junior Activities. Exhibitors are NOT allowed to use AirPods or other forms of communication in the show ring for assistance in exhibiting cattle.
16. Any exhibitor whose calf gets away three times in a single appearance in the show ring will be required to remove the animal from the ring and will not be placed by the judge.
17. ALL BULLS older than one year of age on Jan. 1, 2026, are required to have a permanent nose ring or clip-in nose ring any time they are being handled for the safety of everyone.
18. For the safety of all exhibitors and spectators, any animal that presents an unsafe atmosphere or behavior in the show ring may be removed at the discretion of the ASA staff and/or the AJSA board of directors. The decision of show officials regarding safety is final.
19. All exhibitors are required to wear the official 2026 NJSS shirt when showing cattle, except during showmanship and team fitting contests. (Showmanship will have its own designated shirt that must be worn.) Exhibitors must also wear the correct back number in a show harness for all shows. Back numbers are specific to each animal being shown and must be worn on the front and back.
20. Any animal presented by any individual is assumed to be a representative of the member/owner(s). The ASA reserves the right to disqualify any animal that has been fitted in an unethical manner. Unethical manners include the following: The use of a stomach pump or esophageal tube to deliver liquid, feed, or medication is not allowed. (Oral administration of electrolytes or feed additives is allowed if accomplished without the above devices). The cutting, tearing, or gluing of the hide or underneath the hide or removal of tissue in an attempt to alter the normal conformation or shape of an animal; an injection of any gas, solid, or liquid under the hide to alter the normal conformation or shape

of the animal. Any attempt to disrupt or change the normal dental development of an animal. No changing the natural color pattern of any spots or markings on the animal. (Only white coloring can be used on white, red coloring used on red and black coloring used on Black, etc.) The ASA also endorses and upholds the position of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the rules of the Food and Drug Administration. ***To view the complete set of ASA show rules (ASA Rule VI, VII, and VIII) that must be followed by the exhibitor, visit shorthorn.org and view under rules & regulations. ***

The ASA Executive Committee shall investigate any possible violation of the Rules & Regulations of the American Shorthorn Association. If a violation of said rules and regulations has taken place, a formal protest must be submitted.

A formal protest must consist of:

- A written description of the violated rule and rule number along with a photo or video of the activity.
- One of the following forms of animal I.D.: tattoo or ear tag, along with the date, location, and time of activity.
- Print and sign your name to the protest stating that you witnessed the illegal activity.
- Contact information for yourself and any supporting witnesses who are willing to sign to the protest, so that you may be easily reached.
- Submit a formal protest with a $1,000 cash protest fee to an ASA staff member or board director to be reviewed by the ASA executive board of directors. Protest must be submitted before the grand drive of the designated show. (Bred & Owned, ShorthornPlus, Bulls, Steers, Purebred, etc.)
- If the protest is upheld at any time: any class placing and show results will be stricken for the exhibitor; premiums forfeited; and/or the exhibitor and/or any person directly involved with the rules violation may be banned from future exhibiting or fitting at ASA events at the discretion of the ASA Board of Directors. If any of the above items are not included in the formal protest, the protest will be declared null and void or non-enforceable. Animals shall be subject to a physical examination by the show official before and/or after the animal is exhibited. The decision of the ASA Executive Committee is final. All exhibitors agree by submitting the online entry form for NJSS that no litigation in any form or in any state can be brought to resolve any issues regarding the rules & regulations of the ASA, AJSA or NJSS.

21. Any animal that reaches the entrance of the show ring after the judge has given the sign for the animals to walk will be disqualified from the competition.
22. Animals must remain stalled in the barns during the day as outlined in the official schedule. Trailer stalling during the day is strictly prohibited. Exhibitors who disregard this policy are subject to disqualification. All cattle must stay on the grounds and in the barns during show hours following check-in.
23. It is recommended that no personal, family or farm signs of any kind are used in the stalling or tack or spaces to create unity.
24. Classes and divisions will be broken as proportionately to age and class size as possible and will be guided by the class break allowances of the ASA National Show specifications and NJSS Show Classifications. Class breaks will be posted at least one day prior to the day of the show and are at the discretion of the ASA staff. Once class breaks are posted, they are final, and there will be no further discussion.
25. No portacools or buttfans allowed in barns at any time. All fans in the barn must be hung and not sitting on the ground.
26. No tents or pens are allowed in tie-outs. You must tie in the designated tie-out area, tying to trailers is ONLY allowed when designated.
27. No nurse cows are allowed on the grounds except for those entered and exhibiting in the cow/calf class.

All Additional Female Show Rules

1. Eligible females born on or after Sept. 1, 2024, and on or before March 31, 2026.
2. Eligible females born August 2024 and before are considered cow/calf pairs and must have a natural born calf at side that does not exceed 280 days of age on show day, and the calf must be registered with the ASA.
3. ShorthornPlus females must be 50% Shorthorn or higher to be eligible for ShorthornPlus shows. ShorthornPlus animals have green registration papers and are only eligible for the ShorthornPlus show.
4. Purebred females must be 93.75% or higher and have a Purebred registration paper. Purebred Shorthorn cows with a ShorthornPlus calf at side are only eligible to show in the ShorthornPlus Cow/Calf division.
5. To show in the Bred & Owned shows, the animal must be bred by the individual junior exhibitor (must own cow at time of breeding), owned and shown by the individual junior exhibitor. For embryo transplant (ET) calves, the junior must have been the owner of the dam at the time of the flush and/or egg collection, and the junior name must be listed as the sole "breeder" on the registration certificate.
6. If showing a bred and owned cow/calf pair, both the cow and calf must be bred and owned. If the cow is not bred and owned, then it will show in the owned show.
7. All single-entry heifers shown in the female shows must be weaned and cannot be nursing at the Junior National unless they are also entered as a Cow/Calf Pair. No nurse cows are allowed on the grounds except for those entered and checked in for the cow/calf class.
8. Cow/calf entries are a division and compete for overall Grand Champion female.
9. Cow/calf entries may be made before the calf is born/registered but the calf must be registered by May 1, 2026. Both cow and calf must be registered to the same exhibitor.
10. Unless showing in the Bred & Owned show, Cow does not have to be owned at time of conception but must be owned by the ownership deadline of May 15, 2026.

2026 RULES AND REGULATIONS

Additional Bred & Owned Bull Show Regulations

1. Eligible bulls must be born on or after January 1, 2024, and on or before March 31, 2026. To show in the Purebred bull show, the animal must have a purebred registration paper, bred by the individual junior exhibitor, owned, and shown by the individual junior exhibitor. To show in the ShorthornPlus bull show, the animal must be at least 50% Shorthorn, bred by the individual junior exhibitor, owned, and shown by the individual junior exhibitor.
2. All single-entry bulls must be weaned and cannot be nursing at the Junior National, unless they are also entered as a Cow/Calf Pair. No nurse cows allowed on grounds except for those entered and checked in to the cow/calf class.

Additional Steer Show Regulations

1. Eligible steers must be born on or after September 1, 2024, and on or before March 31, 2026. All steers must be weaned and cannot be nursing at the Junior National.
2. All single-entry steers must be weaned and cannot be nursing at the Junior National, unless they are also entered as a Cow/Calf Pair.
3. Classes will be broken as proportionally to weight and class size as possible. Purebred and ShorthornPlus steers exhibit in different shows. Classes will be broken at the discretion of show officials after check-in is complete.
4. ShorthornPlus steers must be 25% Shorthorn or higher to be eligible to show. This rule is for steers ONLY. Purebred steers must have a purebred registration paper.
5. Steer divisions are the same for all steer shows. Purebred and ShorthornPlus steers will show separately.
   - Prospect Steers: 1000 lbs. and lighter
   - Market Steers: 1001 lbs. and heavier
   - Bred & Owned – the top-placing B&O steer in each class will be asked to come back to compete for the Bred & Owned Championship. Prospect and Market will not show together for Bred and Owned.
6. Steers will be weighed on check-in day only.

Additional E.D.G.E. (Exhibition Driving Genetic Excellence) Show Regulations

1. The E.D.G.E. Show at NJSS is for Purebred Shorthorn females only.
2. Eligible females must be born on or after Sept. 1, 2024, and on or prior to March 31, 2026 and must be registered as purebred Shorthorn.
3. All animals must have a birth weight and weaning weight recorded in the registry. Animals born after January 1, 2026, are excluded from recording a weaning weight.
4. All animals must have a 100K Genomic testing sample submitted AND received by the lab by May 1, 2026.
5. The show will be judged by one judge on both phenotype and genotype. The same judge will judge both portions of the show.
6. Genotypic and phenotypic components will be evaluated as separate portions in this show. Both genotypic and phenotypic components will have equal parts in the overall tabulation (50% genotypic and 50% phenotypic).
7. Genotypic judging will take place prior to exhibition in the phenotypic portion. During the phenotypic portion, the judge will be provided with animal birthdates and placed on phenotype. During divisions and overall championship drive, EPDs will be provided for the judge to select champions in the group of cattle using both phenotype and genotype.
8. Only the top two animals in a class will be placed. Those two will advance to the division class.
9. Females 20 months of age on the day of the show need to have a pregnancy verification signed by an accredited, non-owner veterinarian at the time the female is processed for the show. If verification cannot be produced upon request, the exhibitor is allowed to find a qualified veterinarian to verify the pregnancy prior to the show.
10. Senior Yearling Females who have calved will show based on age and will show without the calf at side. Cow/Calf pair classes will not be offered.

E.D.G.E Show - DNA Requirement

ALL animals must have a 100K Genomic testing sample submitted AND received by the lab by May 1, 2026.

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Membership & Eligibility

- All participants must be members of the American Junior Shorthorn Association (AJSA).
- All participants must pay the exhibitor fee to compete in contests.

Age Divisions

- All individual contests will include four age divisions (based on age as of January 1):
  (Prospector I: 5–9 :: Prospector II: 10–12 :: Intermediate: 13–16 :: Senior: 17 and up)
- If an individual participates in a team contest with someone from a different age division, the team will compete in the oldest contestant's division.

Contest Sign-Up & Registration

- All contestants must complete contest registration online during the official entry period.
- Exhibitors must sign up for all individual contests online before Junior National.
- Showmanship and Livestock Judging must also be signed up for online—sign-up will not be available at Junior National.

Digital Contest Submissions

- Digital contests must be submitted through the online Contest Submission Form at shorthorn.org.
- Do not email submissions to contests@shorthorn.org.

Team Contest Entries

- Advisors will submit team entries.
- Team rosters may be changed until the day before the contest.
- No team changes are allowed on the day of the contest.

Contestant Identification

- Contestant back numbers will be assigned and used for identification in all contests and must be worn in showmanship.
- These numbers are not the same as heifer show back numbers.
- Numbers for team or state contests will also be issued as needed.

Scheduling Conflicts

- If a junior is entered in multiple contests that overlap in schedule, they will be moved to the end of the contest.
- Schedule adjustments will only be made for those participating in multiple contests.

Judging & Scoring

- Judges are not required to complete scoresheets; they are provided as a guideline for judging.
- Judges are encouraged to complete them when possible.
- Scoresheets are not required to be returned to participants.
- If scoresheets are returned, they will be distributed to advisors after the awards ceremony.

Results/Other

- A random Top 5 will be posted by the morning following each contest.
- These are general contest rules. Be sure to read each individual contest's rules for specific guidelines.
- All rules are subject to the discretion of ASA staff and the ASA Board of Directors.

Contest age divisions:
(as of January 1)
Prospector I: 5 to 9 years
Prospector II: 10 to 12 years
Intermediate: 13 to 16 years
Senior: 17 to 21 years

If any individual participates in a "team" contest with someone of a different age division, the team must participate in the oldest contestant's age division unless the contest rules don't allow competing in a different age division.
For showmanship, the Prospector I age division matches show rules (must be 7).

ART & ETC. CONTEST

The purpose of the this contest is for AJSA members to display their artistic skills while promoting the Shorthorn breed. Contestants can create a variety of projects including painting, wood work, metal work and more.

1) Juniors with any special 'artistic' skill (painting, sculpture, artistic posters, etc.) may put their talents on display at Junior Nationals.
2) There is a division for "refurbished" items. This will be all ages together and may not be entered in any other division. These items must be used for intended purposes to be entered in refurbished. (ex: refurbishing a lamp and still using it as a lamp.)
3) The contest will be judged by a group of amateurs instructed simply to do their best.
4) Entries must promote the Shorthorn breed in some way.
5) Exhibitors are allowed to enter as many as TWO entries in this contest; however, only one entry per exhibitor will be able to place in the top five. This includes the entire contest (2 in refurbished division OR 2 in regular division OR 1 in each).
6) A signed statement of originality, that will include a short description about the process and supplies used to create the entry, will accompany it upon check-in. Duplication of entries in subsequent years is not permitted.
7) Judging criteria will consist of:
   Quality of craftsmanship
   Originality/creativity
   Promotion of Shorthorns
   Difficulty of medium used
   Overall artistic appeal
   Refurbished - used for intended purpose (only used for refurbished division)

KRUSE RANCH BEEF COOK-OFF CONTEST

The objective of this contest is to encourage creativity and team work in the presentation as well as teach AJSA members about the beef industry.

1) Each state or state group may be represented by a maximum of two teams. Teams must have 4 people. Each team must include one Prospector (12 and under).
2) A team may be composed of members of more than one state only if they are unable to fulfill the above mentioned requirements. Discrepancies to this rule will be subject of the discretion of the show officials. No points will be awarded towards the Outstanding State Group Award for teams made up of more than one state.
2) Product cooked will be the same for all teams. ***Teams are required to use Ground Beef.*** If designated cut is not used, team risks disqualification.

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3) Cooks may begin preparations anytime on contest day to be ready for judging at the designated time.
4) One table will be provided; teams must supply additional materials. Cooking items, all props, etc., must be provided by the individual teams. Any cook method is allowed. Adults may help during this process.
5) NO alcoholic beverages may be used in the recipe, presentation, or be presented to the judges.
6) Time limit: 3-4 minutes for presentation; 5 minutes for judges' questions. At the conclusion of the 3-minute presentation time limit a time keeper will indicate time is up. For every 30 seconds under/over the presentation time limit, 5 points will be deducted from the presentation score.
7) All presentations will be set up in one common area, with the judges going from table to table to complete the judging.
8) SKIT or PRESENTATION promoting your cooked beef product and the beef industry will be done in front of the judging panel, and food will be tasted simultaneously. There will be THREE judges.
9) Each team must submit a copy of their recipe to AJSA. This copy will not be returned. You must give this to a judge at time of judging.
10) Questions may be asked by the judges.
11) Judging criteria will consist of:
    (a) Presentation:
        1. Creativity: 15
        2. Teamwork: 15
        3. Knowledge of product and industry: 20
    (b) Beef Product: Whole Sale Cuts of Beef
        1. Taste: 20
        2. Presentation of food: 20
        3. Originality: 10
12) A champion in the Recipe Division and the Showmanship Division will be awarded. Additionally, five placings will be awarded overall. State points will only be given for the overall top five placings.
13) The team MUST be ready to present at the posted time. If you are missing team members because of another contest you will be bumped to the end. You will be given a new presentation time that you must be ready to present you meal.
14) Teams may prepare and present in the same area or prepare in one and present in another depending on location that year.
15) Microphones may be used if needed by location.
16) Refer to materials on shorthorn.org for information on primal cuts and beef facts.

MCKENZIE RANCH CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The purpose of the this contest is to help prepare AJSA members for their future. Through creating a resume, cover letter and the interview, participants will gain many skills that can help them in their future career.

1) This contest is for the senior division only.
2) Participants must submit a resume, cover letter & their selected job description in PDF format by May 15 to the online contest form.
    a) Resumes cannot exceed two pages in length. Resumes will be evaluated by the judges on organization, content, grammar, layout and relevance.
    b) Cover Letter is limited to one page, describing additional job qualifications and background to accompany the resume and job description.
    c) Contestants will pick from the three provided job descriptions available at shorthorn.org
3) Contest judges will receive participants resume, cover letter and job description before the contest to review.
4) Only judges, contestant and junior board or ASA staff member will be allowed in the room for this contest.
5) Interviews will be a maximum of 15 minutes. Interview order will be set at 20 minute intervals.
6) Participants are allowed to bring copies of their resume, cover letter and job description. No other materials are allowed.
7) Participants should wear business casual or business professional attire for the interview portion.
8) Participants will receive written comments and critique on their resume, cover letter and interview to be returned after the awards ceremony.
9) Judges will place participants based on their resume, cover letter and interview.

JVT LIVESTOCK CATTLEMAN'S WRITTEN TEST

The purpose of the Cattlemen's Written Test is for AJSA members to show their individual knowledge on the Shorthorn breed, the cattle industry and the beef industry.

1) The quiz will consist of multiple choice questions.
    a) PI/PII - 25 questions
    b) Intermediate - 35 questions
    c) Senior - 45 questions
2) One hour will be allowed for contestants to complete this quiz. Ten-minute warnings will be given after 30 minutes have passed.
3) Contestants may NOT bring notes, books, or reference materials to the quiz area.
4) Conferring with other contestants or the use of notes or any form of cheating will result in disqualification.
5) Junior board will assist for reading words, they will not read entire tests. Contestants must be able to read tests to compete.
6) Contestant will be provided with writing utensils at the contest.
7) Each test will have 5 additional questions that are only used for breaking ties. They will not be used for the grading of the test.
8) Tests will NOT be returned to competitors.

LEVELDALE FARMS E.D.G.E. ESSAY CONTEST

The purpose of this contest is for AJSA seniors to demonstrate their industry knowledge through a well-researched essay on performance data and selection tools.

1) This essay contst is for senior exhibitors only.
2) Essay is due on May 15 via the online contest entry form.
3) The essay must be original work only - no duplication from previous years and no AI-generated contest or plagiarism.
4) Essay must include properly cited MLA-style sources, 12 pt font, Times New Roman, double-spaced and be submitted as a PDF.
5) E.D.G.E. show exhibitors are encouraged to participate but it is not required. This is open to all senior exhibitors who have paid the exhibitor fee.
6) Essays become the property of the ASA upon submission and may be published in the Shorthorn Country magazine.
7) Champion essay receives a $2,000 prize sponsored by Leveldale Farms & The Shorthorn Foundation. Winner will be announced at the E.D.G.E show before the Grand Drive and during the Awards Ceremony.
8) Topic: Why is using perofrmance data important and how can you improve your herd with selection tools?

GRAPHIC DESIGN CONTEST

The purpose of the Graphic Design contest is for Intermediate & Senior exhibitors to display their creativity by designing an advertisement promoting the below topics. These ads have the potential to be published in the Shorthorn Country. This contest helps exhibitors learn design computer software while promoting the Shorthorn breed.

1) Entries in this contest should serve as a promotional tool for the given topic of each age division to promote the topic to the public. The winning ad may be published in the Shorthorn Country.
2) Designs (Ads) may be creative as well as informative. They may feature words, pictures, collages, objects, or any other appropriate item for promoting the contestant's topic.
3) Judging criteria will consist of:
    Clear message
    Clever verbiage
    Eye-catching appeal
    Originality/creativity
    Promotion of the appropriate topic
    Visual Flow
    Overall effectiveness
4) All entries must be emailed by May 15 to the online contest form. Must be

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submitted as a PDF.
5) Entries must be 8.5x11 to fit Shorthorn Country Guidelines. (Live Print Area is 7.485" x 9.833")
6) All entries must be able to provide via email any pictures, fonts, or graphics used (this will be for Shorthorn Country to be able to print in the magazine)
7) Exhibitors are allowed to enter as many as two ads in this contest; however, only one entry per exhibitor will be able to place in the top five.
8) A statement of originality must accompany the entry when emailed.
9) Duplication of entries in subsequent years will not be permitted.
10) Ads for each age division should promote the following topics
    a) Intermediate (13 to 16 years) – promote the AJSA
    b) Senior (17 years and up) – promote Shorthorn Beef
11) Contact shelby@shorthorn.org for the AJSA or Shorthorn Beef Logo.

GYPSY CREEK RANCH HERDSMAN QUIZ BOWL CONTEST

The purpose of the Herdsman Quiz Bowl is for AJSA members to show their knowledge on the Shorthorn breed, the cattle industry and the beef industry. Contestants will work together as a team of four to compete for Champion Quiz Bowl Team.

1) Each state or state group may be represented by a maximum of two teams competing for points. A team MUST consist of four participants, including two Prospectors (12 and under), one intermediate, and one senior. There can be no teams of less than 4 or ones that don't have the required ages. No bumping juniors up for older divisions.
2) A team may be composed of members of more than one state only if they are unable to fulfill the above mentioned requirements. Discrepancies to this rule will be subject of the discretion of the show officials. No points will be awarded towards the Outstanding State Group Award for teams made up of more than one state.
3) Some questions will be (toss-up) free for all to answer; others will be designated for only a specific age division to answer, giving everyone a chance to buzz in. You will be given 8 seconds to answer after you buzz in.
4) Teams may not bring notes, books, phone or reference materials into the quiz area.
5) Conferring with any other contestants, use of notes or any form of cheating will be grounds for disqualification.
6) Contestants will use buzzers to buzz-in to answer quiz questions. If you buzz-in before question is completed you do not get the rest of question etc.
7) Members of competing teams may not be in the quiz room while other teams are participating.
8) Heats will be broken and set based on number of teams entered in the contest in bracket elimination form.
9) If any team member is not present at the time their round begins, that member will be banned from competing and the team must proceed without that member for the remainder of the contest.
10) Placings for 3-5 will be determined by most points/questions answered correctly in previous rounds.
11) Tie breakers will consist of 3 questions. If still tied, teams will enter into sudden death where the first team to answer correctly wins.
Spectators are only allowed for the final championship round. Teams must remain in separate area until their turn. Their phones will be taken and returned after they are done competing.*

HIGH POINT AWARD

The purpose of the High Point Contest is to recognize the top five AJSA exhibitors in each age division for their participation and placing in contests throughout the week. The point system is broke down below. Exhibitors receive points for participation and additional points for placing in contests. This contest also recognizes the state that went above in beyond in participation and placing in contests.

1) Prospector Divisions I and II
    a) Contest Points (Arts, Photography, Promo Poster, Showmanship, Speech, Team Fitting, Team Sales, Livestock Judging, Cattlemen's Written Test, Promo Video)
        1st - 10 pts; 2nd - 8 pts; 3rd - 6 pts; 4th– 4 pts; 5th – 2 pts
    b) Participation: 2 additional points per contest, 5 points for exhibiting cattle, 3 points for completion of Mentor Apprentice
Ties will be broken based on the number of higher placing contests
2) Intermediate and Senior Divisions
    a) Contest Points (Arts, Photography, Digital Photography, Graphic Design, Showmanship, Speech, Career Development, Team Fitting, Team Sales, Livestock Judging, Cattlemen's Written Test, Promo Video)
        1st - 10 pts; 2nd - 8 pts; 3rd - 6 pts; 4th– 4 pts; 5th – 2 pts
    b) Participation: 2 additional points per contest, 5 points for exhibiting cattle, 3 points for completion of Mentor Apprentice
        Ties will be broken based on the number of higher placing contests
3) Point System for Outstanding Junior Association Competition
    a) Contest Points (Arts, Beef Cook-Off, Herdsman Quiz Bowl, Photography, Digital Photography, Promo Poster, Graphic Design, Showmanship, Speech, Career Development, State Basket, Team Salesmanship, Livestock Judging, Cattlemen's Written Test, Promo Video, Philanthropy, State Opening Ceremony Enthusiasm, State Tailgate Part)
        1st - 10 pts; 2nd - 8 pts; 3rd - 6 pts; 4th– 4 pts; 5th – 2 pts
    b) Participation: 2 additional points per contest, 5 points for exhibiting cattle, 3 points for completion of Mentor Apprentice
        Ties will be broken based on the number of higher placing contests

JUNIOR HERDSMAN

The purpose of this award is to recognize an outstanding AJSA member who exhibits a strong work ethic, dedication to the breed, and the ability to present their animals.

1) Any senior member (ages 17-21) exhibiting cattle at the NJSS is eligible to receive this award.
2) An individual may only receive the award once.
3) A nomination committee will be selected by ASA staff to evaluate the senior exhibitors Monday - Wednesday and select 3-5 individuals to be voted on by NJSS exhibitors.
4) Nomination committee will evaluate senior exhibitors on the following traits: hardworking, general involvement, role model, interaction with breeders/juniors, represents/advocates for Shorthorn breed.
5)The selected 3-5 individuals will be announced Wednesday evening and promoted on social media Thursday and Friday.
6) Each exhibitor will need to vote Saturday by 9:00 a.m.
7) The junior herdsman will be announced before the grand drive of the Purebred Owned show on Saturday.

V8 SHORTHORNS LIVESTOCK JUDGING CONTEST

The main objective of the Livestock Judging Contest is to help youth learn how to evaluate cattle.

1) Age divisions:
    a) Prospector I (5 to 9 years)
    b) Prospector II (10 to 12 years)
    c) Intermediate (13 to 16 years)
    d) Senior (17 years and up)
2) There will be no talking during the contest. If participants are caught talking, their cards will be taken and they will be asked to leave the contest.
3) The contest will include 4 classes (12 minutes per class). There will be 10 questions.
4) There will be a NEW class in 2025. This contest will be based on the new E.D.G.E. Show. The intermediate and senior participants will receive a scenario and EPDs. They will use the combination of this performance data along with phenotype to make a decision on placing for the class. The official for the contest will explain why the decision was made using the performance data + phenotype.
5) Ties will be split based on the score on the hardest class.
6) PI will only judge two classes and one questions class (for tiebreakers ONLY) and then be dismissed.
7) Exhibitors are required to sign-up during online entry. You will not be able to sign-up for judging at junior national.

CINDY'S LIVESTOCK PHOTOS PHOTO CONTEST

The purpose of the Photography contest is to allow AJSA members to show their creativity behind the lens while promoting the Shorthorn breed. Entries will be submitted via email and judged before NJSS.

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1) Photography Entries may be made by any age division
2) The contest will select the best 'Shorthorn picture'. Candid shots, scenic pasture views - any picture featuring a Shorthorn will be accepted.
3) Photography should concentrate on all aspects of good composition and quality photography.
4) Judging criteria will consist of:
- Quality of image (focus, light, balance, etc.)
- Well-positioned center of interest
- Good angle/viewpoint
- Captures moment well
- Originality/creativity
- Emphasis on Shorthorns
- Overall appeal

5) ALL entries must be emailed by May 15 to online entry form. Entries must be a high-resolution .jpg file.
6) Entries will not be accepted at NJSS.
7) Entries will be judged in advance by a panel of judges and displayed on screens the week of NJSS.
8) No digital enhancements to the photo are allowed. Cropping is ok.
9) Captions are not allowed on the pictures.
10) Exhibitors are allowed to enter as many as two photos in this contest; however, only one entry per exhibitor will be able to place in the top five.
11) All entries become the property of the American Shorthorn Association.
12) Duplication of entries in subsequent years is not permitted.
13) Camera timer settings may not be used; therefore, the junior submitting the entry may not appear in the photo.
14) By submitting your entry online, you agree that the entry is the result of your own originality, effort and ability. You agree that it has not been submitted at a previous NJSS.
15) FILE NAMING: Last Name, First Name CONTEST (example: Diehm, Shelby PHOTO)

CINDY'S LIVESTOCK PHOTOS PHOTOGRAPHY (DIGITALLYENHANCED)

The purpose of the Digital Photography contest is to allow AJSA members to show their creativity behind the lens and on the computer. Contestants will enhance or alter and Agriculture picture for judging.

1) Digitally Enhanced Photo Contest (Intermediate and Senior age divisions only)
2) This category refers to photos that have been enhanced or altered in some way using a computer program such as Photoshop.
3) The contest will select the best 'Agriculture picture'. Candid shots, scenic pasture views – a picture featuring any aspect of agriculture will be accepted.
4) Photography should concentrate on all aspects of good composition and quality photography.
5) Any form of digital enhancement is allowed (i.e. photoshop techniques, color alteration, captioning, etc.)
6) Judging criteria will consist of:
- Quality of image (focus, light, balance, etc.)
- Use of enhancement effects
- Good angle/viewpoint
- Captures moment well
- Originality/creativity
- Emphasis on Agriculture
- Overall appeal

7) ALL entries must be emailed by May 15 to contests@shorthorn.org.
8) Entries will not be accepted at NJSS.
9) Entries will be judged in advance by a panel of judges and displayed on screens the week of NJSS.
10) Exhibitors are allowed to enter as many as two photos in this contest; however, only one entry per exhibitor will be able to place in the top five.
11) By submitting your entry online, you agree that the entry is the result of your own originality, effort and ability. You agree that it has not been submitted at a previous NJSS.
12) All entries become the property of the American Shorthorn Association.
13) Duplication of entries in subsequent years is not permitted.
14) Camera timer settings may not be used; therefore, the junior submitting the entry may not appear in the photo.
15) FILE NAMING: Last Name, First Name CONTEST (example: Diehm, Shelby PHOTO)

MCGREW EQUIP BID PROMO VIDEO CONTEST

The purpose of the Promo Video contest is to allow AJSA members to show their creativity while promoting the Shorthorn breed in a video format. Entries will be submitted and judged before NJSS.

1) Video entries may be made by any age division. The age divisions will be judged separately.
2) The contest will select the best 'Shorthorn promotional video.'
3) Video MUST be submitted in portrait/vertical mode, no horizontal videos. FORMAT: MP4, MOV or downloadable through Vimeo link. Videos must be a max. of 60 seconds. *Winners may be posted on AJSA TikTok!*
4) Judging criteria will consist of:
- Quality of video
- Promotes the Shorthorn breed
- Good angle/viewpoint
- Originality/creativity
- Overall appeal

5) ALL entries must be submitted by May 15 on the online contest submission form on shorthorn.org.
6) Entries will not be accepted at NJSS.
7) Entries will be judged in advance by a panel of judges, we may share winners and other submissions following the NJSS.
8) Exhibitors are allowed to enter as many as two videos in this contest; however only one entry per exhibitor will be able to place in the top five.
9) All entries become the property of the American Shorthorn Association.
10) Duplication of entries in subsequent years is not permitted.
11) The junior must be in the video promotion Shorthorn cattle OR be the voiceover in the video promoting Shorthorn cattle (and take the video if they are the voiceover.)
12) By submitting your entry online, you agree that the entry is the result of your own originality, effort and ability. You agree that it has not been submitted at a previous NJSS.
13) FILE NAMING: Last Name, First Name CONTEST (example: Diehm, Shelby PHOTO)

PROMOTIONAL POSTER (PI & PII) CONTEST

The purpose of the poster contest is for Prospector I & Prospector II to create a poster promoting the below topics. The posters will be displayed and judged during the National Junior Shorthorn Show.

1) Entries in this contest should serve as a promotional tool for the given topic of each age division to promote the topic to the public.
2) Posters may be creative as well as informative. They may feature words, pictures, collages, objects, or any other appropriate item for promoting the contestant's topic.
3) Judging criteria will consist of:
- Neatness of construction
- Clear message
- Clever verbiage
- Makes wise use of poster space
- Eye-catching appeal
- Originality/creativity
- Promotion of the appropriate topic
- Majority of work done by individual
- Overall effectiveness

4) All entries should be on regular poster board (22"x 28") and be light enough for hanging.
5) Exhibitors are allowed to enter as many as TWO posters in this contest; however, only one entry per exhibitor will be able to place in the top five.
6) A statement of originality will accompany the entry upon check-in.
7) Duplication of entries in subsequent years will not be permitted.
8) Posters for each age division should promote the following topics:
- a) Prospector I (9 years and under) – promote NJSS
- b) Prospector II (10 to 12 years) – promote Shorthorn beef

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SULLIVAN SUPPLY SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

The purpose of Showmanship is to evaluate youth on their ability to show their animal.

1) Age Divisions for Showmanship are as follows (all as of Jan. 1):
   Peewee: 3-6 (must be accompanied by an adult)
   Prospector I: 7-9
   Prospector II: 10-12
   Intermediate: 13-16
   Senior: 17-21

**Exhibitors will be randomly placed in heats in their age division. Ages within the age divsion will be mixed. **

2) Any junior may enter on payment of an exhibitor fee on Junior National entry form. Showmanship contestants do not have to be an exhibitor in the National Junior Show but must use an animal that is entered in the show. **YOU MUST ENTER FOR SHOWMANSHIP DURING ONLINE NJSS ENTRY**. Entries for showmanship will not be accepted at NJSS.

3) Animals must not be fitted for the contest. Judges may switch cattle, ask questions, or use any other method they wish to arrive at their selections.

4) Any exhibitor who loses control of his/her entry three times in a single appearance in the show ring (calf gets away) will be required to remove the animal from the ring. For the sake of safety of all exhibitors and spectators, this rule will be at the discretion at the AJSA staff and directors.

5) Exhibitor numbers will be issued. Therefore, show harnesses must be worn.

6) PI and PII will be placed and given awards for 1st-5th at time of finals. Intermediate will be placed and given awards for 1st-10th at time of finals.

7) The top 10 seniors will be announced randomly. These top 10 seniors will show for final placing after senior preliminaries and semifinals are complete. All placings will be announced during the final drive of showmanship.

8) The same animal must be used for the duration of the showmanship contest. If an exhibitor must exchange an animal due to injury or illness of the animal, the must get approval from junior director, ASA executive and AJSA board president.

9) There will be a peewee class for juniors 6 years of age and under. They must be accompanied by an adult.

10) If you miss your heat you will not be allowed to enter another heat.

11) You cannot enter the ring after the class has begun walking.

12) Show order:
   Ring 1: Senior followed by Prospector I
   Ring 2: Intermediate followed by Prospector II
   Peewee will show in whichever ring is completed first.

13) BULLS CAN NOT BE SHOWN.

14) We will call for showmanship heats at least once for each heat.

15) You are required to sign-up online before junior national to be eligible to compete in showmanship.

HILLSIDE FARM SPEECH CONTEST

The purpose of the Speech Contest is to encourage public speaking in American Junior Shorthorn Association members. This contest can develop speaking skills, character and leadership while promoting the beef industry.

1) No limit to the number of entrants per state.

2) ALL speech participants must submit a video giving their speech by May 15 to contests@shorthorn.org. Judges will evaluate the submitted videos for the age divisions with more than 15 participants. The judges will select a top 15 that will compete at junior national for placing. The top 15 will be notified if they have made it to the placing round. The elimination round and placing round will each have a different set of judges.

3) Prospector Division I (5 to 9 years) and Prospector Division II (10 to 12 years)
   a) Duplication of Speech from previous years is not permitted. See topic below.
   b) Time limit: 2-4 minutes. For speech time limit, 1 point for every 20 seconds over/under will be taken off the speaker's score. For example: speech lasts 4 minutes and 20 seconds, deduction of 1 point. Maximum time limit deduction will be 5 points.
   c) Dress: School clothes
   d) Judges may ask questions of the speakers; no points will be allotted for questions.
   e) Doors will be barred during each speech
   f) No props will be allowed during the speech – only note cards may be used to aid while giving the speech

4) Intermediate Division (13 to 16 years) and Senior Division (17 to 21 years)
   a) Time limit: 4-6 minutes. For Speech time limit, 1 point will be taken off the speaker's score for every 10 seconds under/over. For example: speech lasts 6 minutes and 20 seconds, deduction of 2 points. Maximum time limit deduction will be 15 points.
   b) Dress: Business Casual
   c) Judges will ask questions of the speakers; limited to 2-3 minutes.
   e) Doors will be barred during each speech
   f) No props will be allowed during the speech – only note cards may be used to aid while giving the speech

5) Speaking Topics:
   a) PI Topic: How are Shorthorns 'trailblazers'?
   b) PII Topic: How is showing cattle just like playing a sport?
   c) Intermediate Topic: How does renewable energy (wind, hydro, solar, etc) positively or negatively impact the cattle industry?
   d) Senior Topic: How is the livestock market impacted by international crisis?
   All age divisions will have the same scoring criteria.
   You can find a sample scoresheet and rubric at shorthorn.org

STATE BASKET CONTEST

1) This competition will be judged on:
   (a) Theme concept and continuity – 15 points
   (b) Creativeness – 15 points
   (c) Organization of materials – 10 points
   (d) Overall effectiveness – 10 points

All state baskets must fit within the confines of ONE table provided. You may place larger items below the table and items can be tall on the table but no tents or items larger than the table.

Each basket will be auctioned off in a silent auction. ½ of the proceeds will be given to the state that created the basket the other ½ will be given to the AJSA.
The theme is based on the NJSS theme.

STATE COOK-OFF/TAILGATE PARTY

1) States will participate in the state cook-off contest to win points for outstanding state.

2) This will take place outside similar to a tailgate.

3) It is suggested to set up a tent and decorations related to your state.

4) Must provide sample size food.
   a) Provide approximately 700 samples.
   b) Try to relate the food to your state. (ex: Wisconsin - Cheese Curds)

5) Exhibitors and those who purchased meal packets will be given a ticket. Once they have tried samples, they will vote for their favorite food by placing the ticket in the states jar. The states will be given points toward outstanding state based on the number of tickets in their jar.

6) Each state is encouraged to bring corn hole boards for the corn hole tournament led by the junior board.

SULLIVAN SUPPLY TEAM FITTING CONTEST

The purpose of the Team Fitting contest is to encourage AJSA members to work as a team while fitting an animal for the show ring.

1) A team will consist of FOUR members of any state combination.
   - 2 Prospector I and/or Prospector II Team Members
   - 1 Intermediate Team Member
   - 1 Senior Team Member

2) Points will be awarded towards individual high point awards, no points will be awarded towards the Outstanding State Group Award.

3) Contestants must provide their own animal and materials.

2026 CONTEST RULES

4) Heat 1 Teams must provide a fitting chute. If there is more than one heat, the chutes will remain in place to be used for all heats. The heats will be randomized.
5) A team member must wear a show harness with an exhibitor number issued by show officials.
6) Contestants may not use inappropriate fitting methods. Unethical fitting situations include, but are not limited to:

a) Any altering of the natural color of the animal by the use of dyes, paints, hair coloring conditions, colored show foam, graphite, colored powders or other substances; the use of paint is allowed as long as it does NOT change the original color of the animal.

b) The addition of any hair or hair like substances (including twine), false tailheads, and false polls (false tail switches are allowed);

7) Time limit: 25 minutes
8) Clippers may be used at the discretion of team members.
9) After fitting time, each entry will be held in line by one of the fitters to be viewed by the judges.
10) Judges will base placing on fitting techniques, team cooperation and final results.

a) There will be 2-5 judges.

11) In the event of sub final or final heat:

a) All teams will return to the ring and lineup with teammates (without cattle). Judges will give comments and announce winners. There will be no touch-ups or refitting.

12) Adults outside the ring may not provide assistance. All assistance must come from older team members.
13) All teams will start the contest with show halters OFF the animals.

ERIC SUPPLY CO with UMBARGER TEAM SALESMANSHIP CONTEST

The purpose of the Team Salesmanship Contest is to give juniors experience in a real life scenario of selling an animal or product. This contest promotes team work, communication, marketing and more.

1) Senior Division (17 years and over)

a) The team shall consist of two juniors

b) Senior competitors will present their Shorthorn business plan to the bank to receive a loan. This senior team will come prepared to this competition and they will base their plan on them just graduating college with $500, 10 cows and owning no land.

c) Allotted presentation time: 4-6 minutes. The judges will have three minutes for questions.

d) 1 point will be taken off the speaker's score for every additional 30 seconds under/over.

e) Judging criteria the same as for Intermediate and Prospector divisions.

2) Intermediate Division (13 to 16 years)

a) The team shall consist of two juniors, the team will sell an Umbarger Feed product of their choice

b) Competition will consist of two parts

i) Each junior will speak two minutes with the comments directed to the panel acting as potential investors. Presentation time is limited to a total of six minutes.

ii) Juniors will be questioned by the panel as potential investors (limited to three minutes).

c) A team may use as many sales tools as they deem necessary - teams must provide their own sales tools.

3) Prospector Contest: Division I (9 years and under) Division II (10 to 12 years)

a) The team shall consist of two juniors, at least one with a calf at the Junior National. The team will bring an animal to the competition area and will present, promote and generally "sell" the entry to the judging panel. Cattle should not be fitted beyond being clipped and blown out.

b) Competition will consist of two parts

i) Each junior will speak up to 2 minutes each with each team member speaking equal parts. The comments directed to the panel acting as potential customers. Presentation time is limited to a total of four minutes.

ii) Juniors will be questioned by the panel as potential buyers (limited to three minutes).

c) A team may use as many sales tools as they deem necessary - teams must provide their own sales tools.

d) Microphones will not be used

f) 1 point will be taken off the speaker's score for every additional 30 seconds under/over.

All age divisions will have the same scoring criteria.

You can find a sample scoresheet and rubric at shorthorn.org

RULES FOR ELECTION OF AJSA BOARD

Election of Board of Directors: All candidates MUST submit a written application that is available from the ASA Director of Youth Activities. Junior board applications will be collected in the ASA office by the designated deadline during the current election year. Candidates for election must be nominated from the floor at the Jr. National Youth Conference meeting. A maximum of two new Board of Directors from each state and/or Junior State Association are allowed to be elected at the same time or year. Each state is allowed a maximum of two candidates running for the board each year. If more than two are interested, the state makes the selection for the two candidates who will represent that state.

A. Open interviews with the state delegates will be conducted at Youth Conference.
B. Junior Board candidates will be interviewed by three qualified industry leaders, normally including but not limited to the ASA Executive and AJSA advisors. The individuals interviewing the candidates will rank them in the same manner that the delegates would. The interview process represents 30% of each candidate ranking toward their total score.

Delegate Representation to Elect Board Members: Each state and/or state association shall appoint two delegates to represent that state at the Junior National Youth Conference meeting normally held at the Junior National. A state may be represented by only one junior organization from each state. Those delegates would vote to elect the Board of Directors at Youth Conference meeting. Each delegate must be a member in good standing of the AJSA in order to serve as a delegate. Said delegates must be AJSA members that are 15 years of age or older. If the association does not have two members present fulfilling this age requirement, they may have younger delegates. All delegates must be junior members of the ASA (AJSA members) and be a member in good standing. The definition of a member in good standing is one that does not have over a 90-day balance on their account with the ASA.

A. Vote Distribution: Election will be conducted at the Youth Conference in the following manner: The number of votes received by each State will be determined by the number of members of the American Junior Shorthorn Association within that Junior Association. (If two states officially become one junior association, i.e. Dakota Plains, they will vote as one association. The number of members from each of the states represented will be added to determine the votes the Junior Association gets. So long as no other association is representing either state.)
    1. If the State has 0-75 members in the AJSA the state receives 2 ballots representing 2 votes.
    2. If the State has 76- 250 members in the AJSA the state receives 3 ballots representing 3 votes.
    3. If the State has 251 or more members in the AJSA the state receives 4 ballots representing 4 votes.
    4. The number of Junior Members will be determined at the time and date entries close for the Junior National Show and Youth Conference.
    5. Each Current AJSA Board of Director will receive one ballot representing 1 vote each.
B. Scoring of Votes: During voting, ONLY delegates of the same junior association will be able to confer. Ballots from one state association do not have to have the same rankings. Each ballot will have all the candidates listed on it. The ballot will be filled out by ranking the candidates in order of preference starting with the first choice as 1 and the second choice as 2 and so on, continuing through the list until all candidates have a ranked number. The ballot must be fill out completely with a ranking for each candidate listed or the ballot will be disqualified.
    1. Delegate and AJSA Board rankings will account for 70% of each candidate's total score.
    2. Interview process with three industry leaders with each candidate will be ranked in order of preference and will account for 30% of each candidate's total score.
    3. The total rankings will be added. The candidate with the lowest score will be the first to become a new Board member the candidate with the second lowest score will be the next new board member and so on until all open positions on the Board are filled.

STATE TAILGATE PARTY

On Thursday, June 25, the states are encouraged to participate in the state tailgate party. States will cook about 900 samples of food to share with exhibitors. This food item can be your state speciality item (ex: Wisconsin cheese curds) or anything you think that exhibitors would enjoy!

Exhibitors will vote on which food they like best and the state with the most tickets will be awarded points towards outstanding state.
This tailgate party is a great way for states to come together and for exhibitors to have fun!

This event is subject to change.

MENTOR APPRENTICE PROGRAM

Mentor-Apprentice- Interested juniors will need to attend the Youth Conference I where Mentor- Apprentice participants will be paired up and given the week's task list. One Prospector (the Apprentice) will be paired up with one Intermediate/Senior (the Mentor) from a separate state. Pairs must NOT be from the same state. Throughout the week the pairs will work together to complete a list of missions which will then be placed in the Golden Hopper. The winning pair, chosen at random from the Golden Hopper, will receive the AJSA Golden Comb. Announcement of the winners will take place at the junior national awards ceremony, the pair will be deemed "Experts of their Trade" ***Be sure to sign-up online!***

SHORTHORN SIDEKICKS

Shorthorn SideKicks 2026 – Survivor Camp at the 2026 NJSS in Abilene, Texas is a fun-filled 2-day experience designed for ages 5–7, featuring carnival stations, scavenger hunts, Barnyard Olympics, games, prizes, and more! Participants will wrap up the adventure with a foam party celebration, certificates, and foam cowboy hats as they complete the ultimate Sidekick Survivor challenge. Sponsored by V8 Shorthorns. More details in the NJSS Handbook you will receive in Abilene!

SHORTHORN LASSIES

Lassie 101 – Designed for girls 13-21 who are interested in becoming a Lassie Queen at either the State or National level. Lassie 101 creates a mentorship between past Queens and prospective Lassies. Current National Lassie Board Members and Queens will help teach the basics such as proper costume attire, how to escort classes into the ring, secrets to help keep the crown in place, and tips and tricks for makeup.

Lassie Princess Hour - Hosted by the National Lassie Association, the annual Lassie Princess Hour is a time for young girls ages 5-12 to partner with the older girls and bond through fun activities and crafts. The goal of the program is to create positive role models and mentors for years to come.

WATCH THE SHOW LIVE

For those of you unable to attend the show, you can view the Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday shows LIVE with Walton Webcasting.

WALTON WEBCASTING

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

American Junior Shorthorn Association
National Junior Shorthorn Show

@juniorshorthorn

DOWNLOAD THE SHORTHORN APP

The Shorthorn App contains all information regarding junior national. And during the week we keep it updated with the contest schedules, contest random top 5 and more! It is the best way to stay up to date on NJSS info.

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR

Contact Shelby if you have any questions! shelby@shorthorn.org - 816.599.7777

ALL INFORMATION RELATED TO NJSS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE