



# NEWS

*For Immediate Release*

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Contact: Lori Maude  
Email: [lorim@gelbvieh.org](mailto:lorim@gelbvieh.org)  
303/465-2333

*This release is available electronically*

## **Gelbvieh Juniors Master Life Skills in Contests**

The American Gelbvieh Junior Association (AGJA) Blue Ridge Classic, held July 6-11 in Waynesville, N.C., tested AGJA members' skills in graphic design, written communication, verbal communication and teamwork. The American Gelbvieh Junior Association co-hosted the event with the North Carolina Gelbvieh Association and the North Carolina Gelbvieh Junior Association.

AGJA members complete projects prior to the week-long classic, as well as compete in contests during the Blue Ridge Classic. Following is a list of winners from each contest. Included in each listing is the AGJA member's hometown and state.

### **Carcass Judging Contest**

*\*Tests AGJA member's ability to evaluate a live animal for Yield Grade, Quality Grade, Fat Thickness and an estimated Rib Eye Area. The contestants evaluated four live steers, also listing the highest dollar value steer and the lowest dollar value steer. The steers were harvested and graded later in the week. Winners were the closest to actual results.*

**Junior Division:** Champion—Menzi Spiller, Fredericksburg, Texas; Reserve—Joshua Mattison, Lambertton, Minn.

**Intermediate Division:** Champion—Ashley Skeels, Boerne, Texas; Reserve—Amy Mowry, Burlington, Mich.

**Senior Division:** Champion—Justin Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; Reserve—Shelley Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.

### **Poster Contest**

*\*Contestants are evaluated on the design and overall look of a poster designed to promote Gelbvieh or Balancer.*

**Junior Division:** Champion—Mitch Garcia, Las Animas, Colo.; Reserve—Kacie Jurgens, Miller, Neb.; 3. John Eric Ellis II, Old Fort, N.C.; 4. Austin Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 5. Grace Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 6. Braxton Oldenburg, Mulhall, Okla.; 7. Menzi Spiller, Fredericksburg, Texas; 8. Clark Worley, Black Mountain, N.C.; 9. Kyle Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 10. Sydney Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.

**Intermediate Division:** Champion—Tanner Aherin, Phillipsburg, Kan.; Reserve—Dustin Aherin, Phillipsburg, Kan.; 3. Justin Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 4. Nicole Mattison, Lambertton, Minn.; 5. Tanner Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 6. Tricia Goes, Odell, Neb.; 7. Ashley Skeels, Boerne, Texas; 8. Lucas Waters, Maryville, Tenn.; 9. Carson Hall, Cleveland, N.C.; 10. Bethany Mackey, Mars Hill, N.C.

**Senior Division:** Champion—Shannon Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; Reserve—Katie Sullivan, Robertsdale, Ala.; 3. Shelley Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 4. Kyleigh Barbour, Cantonment, Fla.; 5. Britney Volek, Highmore, S.D.; 6. Tahanee Embry, Priddy, Texas; 7. Christopher Mackey, Mars Hill, N.C.; 8. Johnny Shearer, Canton, Kan.; 9. Alison Baker, Bristol, Ind.; 10. Kaycie Shearer, Canton, Kan.

### **Advertising Contest**

*\*Contestants are judged on the clarity, completeness and overall design of an advertisement based on a provided scenario using provided materials.*

**Junior Division:** Champion—Sydney Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; Reserve—John Eric Ellis II, Old Fort, N.C.; 3. Kallie Mattison, Lambertton, Minn.; 4. Menzi Spiller, Fredericksburg, Texas; 5. Grace Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 6. Joshua Mattison, Lambertton, Minn.; 7. Kacie Jurgens, Miller, Neb.; 8. Kyle Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 9. Austin Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 10. Clark Worley, Black Mountain, N.C.

**Intermediate Division:** Champion—Ashley Skeels, Boerne, Texas; Reserve—Dustin Aherin, Phillipsburg, Kan.; 3. Laura Elmore, Claremont, N.C.; 4. Mark Welle, Milford, Ia; 5. Tanner Aherin, Phillipsburg, Kan.; 6. Kim Chandler, Danielsville, Ga.; 7. Carson Bentley, Cornelia, Ga.; 8. Justin Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 9. Dakota Fowler, Albany, Texas; 10. Lucas Waters, Maryville, Tenn.

**Senior Division:** Champion—Shelley Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; Reserve—Kyleigh Barbour, Cantonment, Fla.; 3. Cassie Rink, Goshen, Ind.; 4. Cameron Burns, Pendleton, S.C.; 5. Alison Baker, Bristol, Ind.; 6. Cassie Robertson, St. James, Mo.; 7. Travis Myers, Canton, Kan.; 8. Cole Buffo, Lansing, Kan.; 9. Julia Elmore, Claremont, N.C.; 10. Johnny Shearer, Canton, Kan.

### **Sales Talk**

*\*Contestants are judged on their ability to evaluate four animals and sell the one that best fits the presented scenario.*

**Junior Division:** Champion—Grace Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; Reserve—Kyle Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 3. Dylan Enyart, Afton, Okla.; 4. Sierra Price, Albany, Texas; 5. Kacie Jurgens, Miller, Neb.; 6. Chandler Ladner, Argonia, Kan.; 7. Sydney Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 8. Clark Worley, Black Mountain, N.C.; 9. John Eric Ellis II, Old Fort, N.C.; 10. Braxton Oldenburg, Mulhall, Okla.

**Intermediate Division:** Champion—Dustin Aherin, Phillipsburg, Kan.; Reserve—Kim Chandler, Danielsville, Ga.; 3. Justin Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 4. Lucas Waters, Maryville, Tenn.; 5. Ashley Skeels, Boerne, Texas; 6. Tanner Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 7. Tricia Goes, Odell, Neb.; 8. Bradley Piles, Bardstown, Ky.; 9. Tanner Aherin, Phillipsburg, Kan.; 10. Jessica Johnson, Parksville, Ky.

**Senior Division:** Champion—Justin Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; Reserve—Andy Lindgren, Atlanta, Ill.; 3. Shannon Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 4. Johnny Shearer, Canton, Kan.; 5. Sydney Wilkinson, Model, Colo.; 6. Shelley Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 7. Garrett Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 8. Kaisha Jurgens, Miller, Neb.; 9. Katie Sullivan, Robertsdale, Ala.; 10. Cameron Burns, Pendleton, S.C.

## Quiz Bowl

*\*Contestants compete as teams in a knowledge bowl based on basic cattle management, Gelbvieh history, and general beef industry knowledge.*

**Junior Division:** Champion Team—North Carolina—Austin Teeter, Clark Worley and John Eric Ellis II; Reserve Team—Nebraska/Minnesota— Joshua Mattison, Sydney Taubenheim and Kacie Jurgens

**Intermediate Division:** Champion Team—Missouri/Kansas/Michigan— Chase Tabor, Justin Vehige, Kale Kendrick and Amy Mowry; Reserve Team—Kansas— Dustin Aherin, Tanner Aherin, Emily Knapp and Brett Williams

**Senior Division:** Champion Team—Kentucky/Michigan—James Riddell, Sara Mowry, Shannon Wade and Shelley Wade; Reserve Team—Kansas— Cole Buffo, Johnny Shearer, Travis Myers and Kaycie Shearer

## Photo Contest

*\*Contestants may enter up to three photos featuring Gelbvieh and Balancer cattle. A contestant may place more than one photo in the top 10. Special Gelbvieh World category is not based on age, only photo content as it relates to the theme, which this year was cattle handling. Editor's Choice is selected as the best overall photo by the Gelbvieh World editor.*

**Junior Division:** Champion & Sixth—Clark Worley, Black Mountain, N.C.; Reserve & Fifth—Menzi Spiller, Fredericksburg, Texas; 3. & 7. Grace Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 4. Brandon Oldenburg, Mulhall, Okla.; 8. Kallie Mattison, Lambertton, Minn.; 9. Austin Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 10. Kyle Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.

**Intermediate Division:** Champion—Bethany Mackey, Mars Hill, N.C.; Reserve—Tricia Goes, Odell, Neb.; 3. Amy Mowry, Mich.; 4. Emily Knapp, Bonner Springs, Kan.; 5. Brett Williams, Galva, Kan.; 6. Laura Elmore, Claremont, N.C.; 7. & 10. Tanner Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 8. Lucas Waters, Maryville, Tenn.; 9. Bradley Piles, Bardstown, Ky.

**Senior Division:** Champion—Sara Mowry, Burlington, Mich.; Reserve—Cole Buffo, Lansing, Kan.; 3. Julia Elmore, Claremont, N.C.; 4. Katie Sullivan, Robertsdale, Ala.; 5. Kyleigh Barbour, Cantonment, Fla.; 6. & 9. Johnny Shearer, Canton, Kan.; 7. Emily Griffiths, Kendallville, Ind.; 8. Garrett Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 10. James Riddell, Shelbyville, Ky.

**Special Gelbvieh World Category:** 1. Braxton Oldenburg, Mulhall, Okla.; 2. Mark Welle, Milford, Iowa; 3. Cameron Durham, Piedmont, S.C.

**Editor's Choice:** Katie Sullivan, Robertsdale, Ala.

## Impromptu Speaking

*\*Contestants have 30 minutes to prepare a speech using provided materials.*

**Junior Division:** Champion—Kyle Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; Reserve—Grace Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 3. Kacie Jurgens, Miller, Neb.; 4. John Eric Ellis II, Old Fort, N.C.; 5. Sydney Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 6. Menzi Spiller, Fredericksburg, Texas; 7. Austin Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 8. Clark Worley, Black Mountain, N.C.

**Intermediate Division:** Champion—Dustin Aherin, Phillipsburg, Kan.; Reserve—Jessica Johnson, Parksville, Ky.; 3. Brian Krajewski, Venango, Neb.; 4. Amy Mowry, Burlington, Mich.; 5. Justin Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 6. Elizabeth Krajewski,

Venango, Neb.; 7. Justin Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 8. Emily Knapp, Bonner Springs, Kan.; 9. Bradley Piles, Bardstown, Ky.; 10. Ashley Skeels, Boerne, Texas

**Senior Division:** Champion—Jeremy Griesbaum, Taylor, Mo.; Reserve—Shelley Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 3. Shannon Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 4. Justin Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 5. Sydney Wilkinson, Model, Colo.; 6. Kaisha Jurgens, Miller, Neb.; 7. Kaycie Shearer, Canton, Kan.; 8. Johnny Shearer, Canton, Kan.; 9. Garrett Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 10. James Riddell, Shelbyville, Ky.

## Judging Contest

*\*Contestants compete for team and individual awards.*

**Junior Division:** Champion Team—Missouri/Kansas— Chandler Ladner, Kansas, Kyle and Grace Vehige, Missouri; and; Reserve Team—North Carolina—John Eric Ellis II, Clark Worley and Austin Teeter.

**Junior Individuals:** Champion—Kyle Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; Reserve—Menzi Spiller, Fredericksburg, Texas; 3. Austin Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 4. Chandler Ladner, Argonia, Kan.; 5. Kacie Jurgens, Miller, Neb.; 6. Sydney Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 7. John Eric Ellis II, Old Fort, N.C.; 8. Braxton Oldenburg, Mulhall, Okla.; 9. Grace Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 10. Sierra Price, Albany, Texas

**Intermediate Division:** Champion Team—Kansas— Emily Knapp, Dustin and Tanner Aherin and Van Tucker; Reserve Team—North Carolina/Missouri—Laura Elmore, Justin Vehige, Carson Hall and Justin Teeter

**Intermediate Individuals:** Champion—Tanner Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; Reserve—Dustin Aherin, Phillipsburg, Kan.; 3. Ashley Skeels, Boerne, Texas; 4. Jessica Johnson, Parksville, Ky.; 5. Justin Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 6. Amy Mowry, Burlington, Mich.; 7. Laura Elmore, Claremont, N.C.; 8. Justin Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 9. Kim Chandler, Danielsville, Ga.; 10. Carson Hall, Cleveland, N.C.

**Senior Division:** Champion Team—Kentucky/Texas—James Ridell, Shannon Wade, Tahanee Embry and Shelley Wade; Reserve Team—South Dakota/Nebraska—Kaisha Jurgens, Nikki Hojer, Britney Volek and Justin Taubenheim

**Senior Individuals:** Champion—Emily Griffiths, Kendallville, Ind.; Reserve—Justin Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 3. James Riddell, Shelbyville, Ky.; 4. Shelley Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 5 (TIE). Kyle Kendrick, Palmyra, Mo., and Christopher Mackey, Mars Hill, N.C.; 7. Shannon Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 8. Sara Mowry, Burlington, Mich.; 9. Garrett Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 10. Zachary Butler, Milton, Tenn.

## Team Fitting

*\*Contestants are evaluated on how well they work together, use of fitting products and the fitted animal. They have 30 minutes to fit a clean, dry animal. Junior and Intermediate division are teams of three or four, while Senior division work in pairs.*

**Junior/Intermediate Division:** Champion Team—Dustin and Tanner Aherin, and Chandler Ladner, all from Kansas; Reserve Team—Van Tucker, Kansas, Tanner and Sydney Taubenheim of Nebraska

**Senior Division:** Champion Team—Zachary Butler, Tennessee, and Britney Volek, South Dakota; Reserve—Keaton and Kyle Kendrick of Palmyra, Mo.; 3. Shelley and Shannon Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 4. Kaisha Jurgens, Miller, Neb., and Justin Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 5. Kaycie and Johnny Shearer, Canton, Kan.

## **Creative Writing**

*\*Contestants wrote an essay on a given topic and entries were evaluated on overall message, grammar, spelling and punctuation.*

Junior: Champion—Austin Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; Reserve—Braxton Oldenburg, Mulhall, Okla.; 3. Menzi Spiller, Fredericksburg, Texas; 4. Sydney Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 5. Clark Worley, Black Mountain, N.C.; 6. Brandon Oldenburg, Mulhall, Okla.

Intermediate: Champion—Ashley Skeels, Boerne, Texas; Reserve—Carson Hall, Cleveland, N.C.; 3. Justin Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.; 4. Tanner Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.

Senior: Champion—Tahanee Embry, Priddy, Texas; Reserve—Britney Volek, Highmore, S.D.; 3. Shelley Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 4. Cameron Durham, Piedmont, S.C.; 5. Shannon Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 6. Carrie Tilghman, Glasgow, Ky.

## **All-Around Competition**

*\*Based on participation and placings in contests throughout the week.*

Champion—Dustin Aherin, Phillipsburg, Kan.; Reserve—Kyle Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 3. Sydney Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 4. Ashley Skeels, Boerne, Texas; 5. Shelley Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 6. Menzi Spiller, Fredericksburg, Texas; 7. Grace Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.; 8. Justin Taubenheim, Amherst, Neb.; 9. Shannon Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.; 10. Austin Teeter, Mt. Ulla, N.C.

## **Rookie of the Year**

*\*Most points earned by a first-time Classic participant.*

Shelley Wade, Cynthiana, Ky.

## **2008-09 Ambassadors**

*These individuals represent the AGJA at shows and events throughout the year.*

**Junior Ambassador:** Kyle Vehige, Bonnots Mill, Mo.

**Senior Ambassador:** Tahanee Embry, Priddy, Texas

## **Junior Herdsman of the Year**

*\*Voted on by the exhibitors attending this year's classic. Any exhibitor is eligible for the award.*

**Winner:** Chandler Ladner, Argonia, Kan.

**State Herdsmanship Winner:** Kansas

**State Scrapbook Winner:** Kansas

**State Challenge Cup** (*most points earned by a state for participation in the event*):

Champion—North Carolina; Runner-Up—Kansas

For more information on Gelbvieh junior programs, go to [www.gelbvieh.org](http://www.gelbvieh.org) and click on the Junior Page. The 2009 AGJA Pride of the Heartland Classic is set for Des Moines, Iowa, July 6-11, 2009.

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