

2018 National Junior Angus Show Junior Herdsman Awarded

Wesly Johnson named the award recipient at the golden anniversary show.

The hours put into preparation and training for the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) are often extreme, as the level of competition is unmatched. Individuals put in countless hours preparing their livestock for all shows, and this show is no different. Each year, one junior rises above, displaying even more dedication and going beyond the norm to care for his or her livestock, other juniors, the showring and beyond.

The Junior Herdsman of the Year Award is granted to one junior member each year who has displayed to their peers how their care for their livestock is above average. The care this individual displays toward their livestock and the Angus breed is a critical trait of a successful herdsman.

Voted upon by peers, **Wesly Johnson was honored as the 2018 Junior Herdsman of the Year** for the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). Hailing from Pipestone, Minnesota, this young man traveled the hours with seven different entries: a Bred and Owned Cow/Calf pair, four Bred and Owned Heifers, and two Owned Heifers. His first NJAS was in 2008, in Des Moines, Iowa, and now ten years later, his childhood vision of wearing that prestigious belt buckle are fulfilled.

As the 50th NJAS, this golden anniversary has even more significance. Johnson was recognized during a year where the stakes are elevated, the competition steeper and the honor higher.

“If you think about it, it’s even more of an honor to receive the Herdsmanship Award at the anniversary show,” Johnson said.

This award came to him as a surprise, not something he was specifically vying for, but something he recognized would be an honor.

“I was shocked and surprised, and I didn’t really know what to do but went up to receive my award,” he said. “I never expected to be honored to receive the greatest award out there. People all around the world recognized you, and gave you a chance. It’s more than just winning but seeing the growth in myself into the person I am today, and other people have seen this as well.”

In Madison, Wisconsin, the 2018 NJAS had 1,811 head of cattle entered with 1,200 exhibited, with 873 exhibitors showing from all across the country. At this golden anniversary, with the number of cattle shown and an even wider number of juniors entered as exhibitors, Johnson will never forget this last year of his NJAS experience and the recognition of his dedication throughout the year by his peers.