

Quizmasters



Juniors learn about cattle industry through quiz bowl.

Story & photos by **Kasey Brown**, associate editor

Tests in school might have been a lot more fun if they included buzzers and some friendly competition. The quiz bowl contest at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) teaches National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members about animal science, the beef industry and the Angus breed through its two-part format. This year's event, even though its start time was delayed by a long show day, was exciting with fast-paced activity from beginning to end.

Quiz Bowl procedures

The contest has a written portion and a verbal team portion. The first round is the written test, which consists of 50 questions, plus five bonus questions that are only used to break ties, explains Jaclyn Upperman, director of events and education at the American Angus Association. The test portion was rewritten this year.

She explains that the scores of the four team members are added together to make up the team composite score. In the event of a tie, the scores of bonus questions are added

to break the tie. If a tie still exists, both teams will advance to the verbal round.

The top eight teams from the written round in each age division compete in the verbal round. These top eight teams are posted the morning after the written test at the NJAS near the show office, Upperman says. Even if a team didn't make it to the

verbal round, they can still find out how they did on the written test. All participants' scores from the written test are posted outside the show office for advisors and contestants to view.

The verbal round is where the action is. The top eight teams compete in a single-elimination bracket. The verbal round has two different sections, Upperman says. There is a one-on-one round and a toss-up round. The one-on-one round has eight questions, two per team member. The one-on-one round pits a team member against the corresponding member of the other team.

This means whoever sits in the first chair will have to answer the question against the opposing team member in the first chair. Only these two members can answer that question; it is not open to all contestants. Each team member gets two questions in this fashion.

Speed is a key aspect of quiz bowl in the verbal round, but it can be a double-edged sword. Obviously, a quiz bowl team would want to buzz in before the other team, but



► The written quiz bowl tests are separated by age division, and each have two versions to ensure each contestant does their own work.

► Kansas #1 team members Eva Hinrichsen, Westmoreland; Kady Figge, Onaga; Clay Pelton, Paradise; and Kelsey Theis, Onaga, confer during a bonus question in the toss-up round.



► Regional Manager Casey Jentz explains the written quiz bowl procedures to a junior team.

35 Keys to Success
Youth Development

the moderator immediately stops reading a question once the buzzer sounds.

“Contestants are warned that some questions may have more than one part, so buzzing in early may hurt the team’s score,” warns Upperman.

If a team member answers the question correctly, then the team is awarded 10 points. If the question is answered incorrectly, the opposing team has the opportunity to answer the question, she says. In this instance, they do get to hear the entire question, though the team member still has to sound the buzzer.

The one-on-one aspect of the quiz bowl competition ensures that one person can’t carry the whole team. All team members must be prepared.

Once the one-on-one questions are finished, the toss-up round starts. Any member of the team can answer any question as long as they buzz in first, Upperman notes. The toss-up round gives the opportunity for bonus questions. The bonus question allows

the team to confer before answering, but only on a bonus question.

After the end of the toss-up round, a 25-point bonus is awarded if all four team members answered questions correctly.

A team’s perspective

The winning senior team from Missouri consisted of Chris Kahlenbeck, Union; Brittany Eagleburger, Buffalo; Hannah Moyer, Lamar; and Elizabeth Otte, Saint Mary. Eagleburger was the only team member without previous quiz bowl experience. She joined the team because, she says jokingly, “Chris and our moms made me.” She did say she enjoyed her first experience with the contest.

Kahlenbeck, the team captain and experienced “horse bowl” veteran, says he enjoys the contest because of his competitive spirit. He was involved with 4-H horse bowl, a contest similar in design, for many years, and his team won the state championship five times. “Angus quiz bowl seemed like the natural thing to get into,” he explains.

Otte is another experienced horse bowl contestant, who actually rivaled Kahlenbeck in previous contests. Moyer joined the Missouri quiz bowl team because she tried to get involved in all the activities that she could.

Preparation for quiz bowl is greatly aided with the provided study guide, all of the team members explained. Eagleburger says, “Quiz bowl is one of the easier contests to prepare for, because there aren’t any scripts to



► The toss-up round pits two teams against each other in a fast-paced environment.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 122

Quizmasters CONTINUED FROM PAGE 121

memorize. There is more individual preparation in this contest instead of team preparation.”

Kahlenbeck agrees and says he memorized the study guide. That was evident during the verbal round of the contest. He was able to buzz in after only a few words of the question were read. He adds that his mom was very helpful in quizzing the whole team before the contest.

In addition to studying this year’s study guide, Moyer says she looked at old study guides.

In Missouri, Kahlenbeck explains, when contest entries are due in May, seniors write down in which contests they want to participate, and that is how their team was formed.

All four team members are in college and agree that many of the quiz bowl questions are similar to what they have learned in their animal science classes.

Being a team event makes quiz bowl a social event, and the quiz bowl room was full of competitive, yet friendly energy.

Kahlenbeck says hanging out with other teams in the waiting room is another fun



► Missouri senior team members (from left) Chris Kahlenbeck, Union; Brittany Eagleburger, Buffalo; Hannah Moyer, Lamar; and Elizabeth Otte, Saint Mary, listen intently to the question being asked. The foursome claimed top honors in the senior bracket.

aspect of the contest. After each match, both teams shake hands and congratulate the winning team. “It’s fun to see how excited everyone is for other teams,” Eagleburger adds.

The social aspect of the NJAS is a favorite among all the team members. They enjoy meeting new people and seeing old and new friends at the show each year.

NJAA has helped each of them break out

of their shell. Many admit being shy as younger NJAA members, but age and opportunities have expanded their comfort zone greatly. Kahlenbeck says his involvement in NJAA has helped him decide what he wants to do in the future, which is to study agricultural business in college and eventually go to law school. Quiz bowl can certainly help him prepare for that.



QUIZ BOWL



► Winning the junior division of the quiz bowl are (from left) Kansas team members **Kelsey Theis**, Leavenworth; **Clay Pelton**, Paradise; **Kady Figge**, Onaga; and **Eva Hinrichsen**, Westmoreland.



► Placing second in the junior division of the quiz bowl are (from left) Nebraska team members **Jace Stagemeyer**, Page; **Reagan Skow**, Palisade; **Kyra Meyer**, Blue Hill; and **Skylar Liene-mann**, Princeton.



► Winning the intermediate division of the quiz bowl are (from left) Missouri team members **Carter Ward**, Plattsburg; **Sydney Thummel**, Sheridan; **Jera Pipkin**, Republic; and **Cooper Sadowsky**, Eagleville.



► Placing second in the intermediate division of the quiz bowl are (from left) Kansas team members **Cale Hinrichsen**, Westmoreland; **Chelsey Figge**, Onaga; and **Laura Carpenter** and **Anna Carpenter**, both of Wamego.



► Winning the senior division of the quiz bowl are (from left) Missouri team members **Elizabeth Otte**, Saint Mary; **Hannah Moyer**, Lamar; **Brittany Eagleburger**, Buffalo; and **Chris Kahlenbeck**, Union.



► Placing second in the senior division of the quiz bowl are (from left) Nebraska team members **Taylor Nichols**, Chambers; **Cheyann Lovett**, Blue Hill; **Maci Lienemann**, Princeton; and **Michaela Clowser**, Milford.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASS'N