



## ROYAL TIMES AT NATIONAL JUNIOR EVENT

Leadership of the North American Junior Red Angus Event (NAJRAE) partnered with the Kansas Junior Red Angus Association to pull off an exceptional summer event for enthusiasts from across the country. Eight Missouri juniors and their families made the trip to Hutchison, Kansas the week of June 17 to exhibit a total of twelve “Royal Reds”.

Missouri was well represented in a variety of fun and educational activities made available to participants. Leah Puchbauer, Shannon Jenkins, Danica Lowrey and Dillion O’Dell represented Team Missouri in the state team fitting contest. Carsyn O’Dell and her famous horse, Spirit, made a good run in the pee wee stick horse race. Dillion O’Dell was awarded second place in the junior division of the herdsman quiz, while Brett Sartin participated in the quiz bowl with a team of friends from various states that took second place in the intermediate division. Other activities enjoyed throughout the week included photography, arts and crafts, showmanship, sales talk, public speaking, and a livestock judging contest.

As a member of the NAJRAE junior board, August Bertz was busy tending to his organizational responsibilities as well as his cattle. (Side Note: We feel certain he has given a big “thanks” to his mother, Melisa, for the outstanding care she gave to his animals in his absence!) As the newly appointed Communications Director, August “would like to make the NAJRAE such a memorable experience that Junior Red Angus members would become life-long Red Angus supporters and breeders.”

The Legacy Heifer Project is a mentoring program designed in a way that a young herdsman can learn from an experienced breeder. This takes place for a period of one year through the development of a young heifer that has been donated. Youth ages 6-14 who are interested in participating in the program first complete and submit an online questionnaire/essay before being interviewed by the program committee. At this year’s Friday night banquet, it was announced that the Legacy Heifer, donated by Randall and Jane Adolph of Freedom Hills Ranch, Mt. Carroll, Illinois, was being awarded to Missouri’s very own Brett Sartin.

Over the course of a two-day period Missouri cattle were exhibited in royal fashion. August Bertz was a class winner in the Bred and Owned Heifers Show. Shannon Jenkins and Leah Puchbauer were able to participate in the Breeders Cup Futurity Show thanks to the breeders of their females, Ty-Be Farms and

Andras Stock Farm, respectively. Brett Sartin, Pleasant Hill Cattle/ Sartin Show Cattle, was awarded Reserve Grand Champion Red Angus Steer with PHC All In 002E, an animal he bred and developed.

One thing is certain: Missouri members perfectly mirrored this year's theme by taking on the characteristics of kings and queens both in and out of the show ring. Each junior, including four newcomers to the event (Leah, Danica, and Shannon and Rory Jenkins), agree that NAJRAE is a great place to see exceptional cattle and meet friends for life. If you have an interest in joining us in Grand Island, NE from June 16-22, 2019, contact a member of the MOJRAA Advisory team. We encourage you also to check out [najrae.com](http://najrae.com) to learn more about the opportunities available to young Red Angus breeders.



Left: Shannon Jenkins, Danica Lowrey, Rory Jenkins creating a little fun before the show.

Right: Making Friends: Carsyn O'Dell and Shannon Jenkins at the opening ceremony for NAJRAE 2018.

**We hope you'll join us at the NAJRAE in Grand Island in 2019!!**

