

JNHE JUDGES

Get to know the judges for the 2023 VitaFerm® Junior National Hereford Expo.

Blake Bloomberg

Owned Female Show



Blake Bloomberg, Ph.D., is an associate professor and livestock judging coach at Black Hawk College East Campus.

Blake and his wife, Wravenna, have four children: Breckyn; twin boys, Brenhem and Berwick; and Bexton. Blake was raised in Berwick, Ill., on his family's diversified livestock operation consisting of cattle, hogs and row crops. As the livestock judging coach at Black Hawk College East, he recently coached the 2022 junior college team of the year.

During his career at Oklahoma State University and Texas A&M University (TAMU), Blake coached three national champion livestock judging teams. Blake is a seven-time National Collegiate Coaches Association Coach of the Year. He also served as co-coach of the national champion meat animal evaluation team three times.

Blake attended Black Hawk College East and was a member of the 2004-2005 judging team. He was the high point individual at the 2006 National Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest and was also a member of the undefeated 2006 TAMU national champion livestock judging team.

Blake has judged livestock shows in 42 states and three foreign countries, including prestigious national shows, and regional and state events.

Jake Bloomberg

Owned Female Show Associate



Jake Bloomberg is the owner and operator of Bloomberg Cattle, based in Berwick, Ill. Jake attended Black Hawk College East

and Oklahoma State University, where he was a member of two nationally competitive livestock judging teams.

Today, Jake and his family run 150 head of Simmental and Angus cows with a focus on raising competitive show heifers. His favorite part of being involved in the show cattle industry is getting to meet, interact and build friendships with cattlemen and women across the industry. He loves striking up a conversation with anyone, from the elite seedstock breeder to the sale barn regular.

Craig Sand

Bred-and-Owned Females and Cow-Calf Pairs



Craig Sand, Stillwater, Okla., grew up in southern Wisconsin on a Limousin cow-calf operation. He has been married to his wife, Jessica, for 22 years, and they have two sons, Colton and Coy. Both boys are heavily involved in rodeo.

Craig has managed show and sale cattle for more than 24 years. He started his career in 1999, managing Limousin cattle for Carrousel Farms. In 2003, he was named the National Limousin Herdsman of the Year. Craig moved to Stillwater in 2008 to manage

show and sale cattle for Limestone LLC. He currently manages C4 Land and Cattle, a registered Angus and Simmental operation.

Luke Doris

Bred-and-Owned Females and Cow-Calf Pairs Associate



Luke Doris, Ree Heights, S.D., owns and operates Doris Cattle, a club calf breeding operation in central South Dakota. Luke

has raised and sold many state, regional and national champions across the country and houses some of the nation's top donor cows. Doris Cattle hosts an annual pasture sale and bred female sale, where countless champions and cornerstone donor cows have found homes across the country.

Luke grew up in southwest Kansas. He received his associate degree from Dodge City Community College and later attended Oklahoma Panhandle State University. He has judged numerous shows, including several state fairs. He and his wife, Kyrstin, have four children: Croix, Cannon, Cahill and Chapel.

Blaine Rodgers

Bred-and-Owned Bull and Steer Shows



Blaine Rodgers, Savannah, Mo., owns and operates Rodgers Livestock with his wife, Melissa, and two daughters, Payton

and Reagan. Blaine grew up in California, where he attended Modesto Junior College and Cal

Poly University and studied animal science while participating on the livestock judging team. Today, Rodgers Livestock is a family operation focused on breeding and marketing high-quality cattle and working with families and breeders across the country.

In addition to selling show cattle, Rodgers Livestock also promotes and markets semen from a diversified lineup of bulls serving all segments of the industry. Outside of his role at Rodgers Livestock, Blaine is the national sales manager at Rule Supplements, where they focus on providing a complete multi-species line of nutritional supplements and the Rival Show Feeds brand to customers across the nation. These two roles provide the opportunity to work closely with youth and breeders in the livestock industry and fulfill a lifelong passion.

Gil and Corbin Cowles

Junior and Peewee Showmanship



Gil Cowles is a graduate of Western Kentucky University, where he was a member of the livestock judging team. Gil and his wife, Mary, are the owners of Pleasant Hill Farms in Rockfield, Ky., where their family operates a progressive Angus and Simmental seedstock operation and hosts several production sales each year. Gil has been fortunate to judge numerous shows in several states across the country over the years, including multiple state and regional level shows.

Corbin Cowles is also a native of Rockfield, Ky., where he grew up on his family's Angus and Simmental cattle operation, Pleasant Hill Farms. He graduated from Oklahoma State University

(OSU) in May of 2019 with a bachelor's degree in animal science. While at OSU, he was a member of the 2018 national champion livestock judging team. He went on to be the University of Kentucky's livestock judging team coach from 2019-2020. Corbin is a licensed apprentice auctioneer and works for Schrader Real Estate and Auction Co., while also helping run his family's operation. Corbin has judged shows in a dozen different states.

Frank and Carlie Jackson

Senior and Intermediate Showmanship



Frank Jackson has deep roots in the livestock industry and raised his three children, Carlie, Cole and Jake, in the industry. Early on in his career, he worked at Northcote Angus in Virginia. Frank then took a position at Jac's Ranch in Bentonville, Ark., eventually becoming the general manager. In 2003, he moved to Sanborn, Minn., to be involved in the family farm and feedlot business. In 2018, Frank accepted the general manager position at Custom Genetic Solutions (CGS) in Mitchell, S.D. He works alongside the staff to make CGS one of the leading bull studs in the industry. Frank has judged at both state and national shows across the country and looks forward to being in Madison.

Frank's daughter, Carlie Jackson, understands the industry's various aspects, too, having grown up on the ranch in Arkansas and being involved in the feedlot/farm operation in Minnesota. Carlie was very involved in showing cattle and pigs across the country with her younger brothers and

still plays a vital role in their operation. Carlie graduated from South Dakota State University (SDSU) in 2018 with a degree in agricultural communications and animal science. She was part of a competitive collegiate livestock judging team during her time at SDSU. Carlie's passion for livestock goes beyond the showing as she and her boyfriend, Tanner, alongside her brothers, are building a Simmental and Angus cow herd. Carlie currently lives in Mitchell, where she is a cattle territory manager for Merck Animal Health.

Kyle Lemmon

Team Fitting and Top 10 Senior Showmanship Finals



Kyle Lemmon, Manchester, Md., owns and operates Lemmon Cattle Company alongside his wife, Nicole; daughter, Blakely; and son, Kashton. Kyle grew up showing and raising Hereford cattle and has continued to pursue his career in the cattle industry by hosting four annual sales. He is currently a sales representative for Cattle Connect and operates a Vytelle IVF satellite location.

Over the years, Kyle has been successful at some of the largest national shows, including the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE), Keystone International Livestock Expo (KILE) and JNHE, along with exhibiting show heifers and show bulls of the year.

Recently, Kyle was named the 2023 Hereford Herdsman of the Year. He exhibited the 2019 NAILE reserve champion Hereford bull, the 2022 KILE champion Hereford bull and bred the 2020 NWSS reserve champion polled Hereford female. **HW**