For Black Hawk East, 2025 was a year of championships, individual recognition and continued excellence on the national stage. The year included two groups of students representing the program. The 2024–25 team completed its collegiate judging career in spring 2025, while the 2025–26 team began its season that fall. Although the roster changed, the expectations surrounding Black Hawk East livestock judging remained the same.



The program began 2025 with a major victory at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. Aaron Amick led the team with a fifth-place individual finish at the National Western. The team followed its Denver victory with a fifth-place finish at the Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City before traveling to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo for its final contest.

At Houston, Black Hawk East placed fourth overall, while Amick was named the reserve high individual. The team completed its season as the Reserve National Champion Junior College Team of the Year. Amick also received Academic All-American recognition. The honor is awarded to 15 junior-college livestock judging students who demonstrate excellence in judging while maintaining a grade-point average of at least 3.5



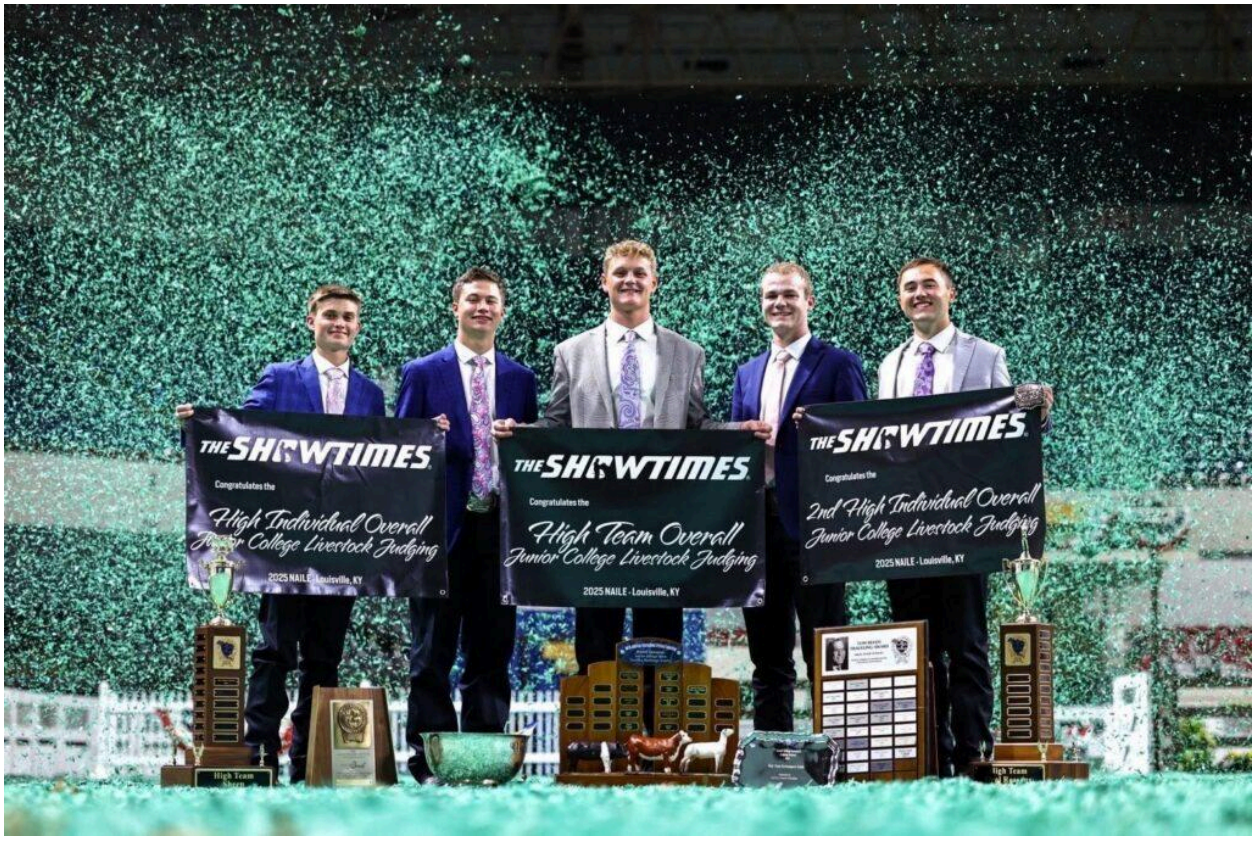
The spring team included Aaron Amick, Matthew Blackburn, Blaze Cozart, Matthew Ferrell, Laney Harryman, Carter Hoge, Klara Leach, Karson Osborn, Rob Rogers, Hayden Schroeder, Kenzie Stadtmiller and Jimmy Tibbits. Together, they concluded their Black Hawk East careers with a National Western championship and a reserve national finish.

As that team completed its journey, Black Hawk East's next group was already preparing to continue the program's success. Black Hawk East began its 2025–26 campaign by winning the World Beef Expo and National Barrow Show. Jacobson was named the high sophomore individual at World Beef Expo, while Pecos Worrell led the freshman division.



At the National Barrow Show, Black Hawk East earned the program's 38th victory in the contest's history. Judson added to the accomplishment by finishing as the high individual overall. The team also placed third at the Tulsa State Fair and fourth at the State Fair of Texas before traveling to Kansas City for the American Royal Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest. At the American Royal, Black Hawk East earned the overall junior-college championship. Jacobson led the contest as the high individual overall.

The team carried that momentum to Louisville for the North American International Livestock Exposition. Black Hawk East captured another championship at NAILE, with Harker earning high-individual honors.



Winning the American Royal and NAILE during the same fall placed the 2025–26 team among the most accomplished groups in Black Hawk East history. It also gave the program championships at several of the country's leading contests within one calendar year.

The 2025–26 team included Maddy Baynes, Addyson Lehman, Mason Kinney, Nick Jackson, Wyatt Baxter, Cole Storm, Karsyn Cocanower, Olivia Shike, Amy Geary, Kelsey Zepp, Carolyn Johnson, Ella Bobell, Chloee Barnes, Will Hoopes, Jace Judson, Logan Corzatt, Chase Harker and Drew Jacobson. The program was led throughout the year by Dr. Blake Bloomberg & Grace Angotti.



Across 2025, Black Hawk East won the National Western, World Beef Expo, National Barrow Show, American Royal and NAILE. The program also produced several high individuals, an Academic All-American and two teams capable of competing with the best junior colleges in the country.

Those accomplishments tell only part of the story. Behind every banner were hours spent evaluating livestock, preparing oral reasons and learning to make confident decisions under pressure. Each contest challenged the students to trust their preparation, support their teammates and represent the tradition attached to the Black Hawk East name.



One group began 2025 by winning in Denver and completing its collegiate career. Another carried the program forward with victories in Kansas City and Louisville. Together, they made 2025 a year defined by consistency, transition and championships—another remarkable chapter in the history of Black Hawk East livestock judging.