

DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION



FALL 2023

3201 Frederick Ave. | St. Joseph, MO | 64506-2997
816-383-5100 | www.angus.org/njaa | info@njaa.info



The Future is Ours

By Lauren Gilbert, vice chairman

“What are you going to do?” is the question everyone asks when you’re in your early 20s. Honestly, I am not sure what exactly I am going to do after I graduate. However, I know one thing for certain – wherever I end up, I’ll be proud to be a part of the Angus breed.

Growing up on a farm or ranch is truly a blessing. From a young age, us farm and ranch kids understand the importance of being caretakers of

livestock and stewards of the land. We grew up being taught the reward of working hard isn’t just earning a dollar but serving a bigger purpose than ourselves — feeding the world.

Today, it seems like our lifestyle of farming and ranching is becoming obsolete. However, it is up to us to carry on a legacy of producing quality beef and other food products for our communities.

It won’t be easy; if it was, everyone would do

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Chairman's Perspective

EMBRACING CHALLENGES

Throughout our lives we will face many challenges and obstacles that will address our own strength, grit, and determination. In our ever-changing industry and world, we must seek to further ourselves and overcome these challenges and persevere.

During my youth, I faced many challenges. Whether it was giving a speech in front of a large audience, focusing on academics, or prioritizing what goals were most important to me. Often, challenges can come in many forms, whether they be personal, professional, physical, or emotional. What truly matters is how we overcome these situations. Having an open mind and setting a clear path to how you want to overcome this obstacle is an essential step.

Along with this, acknowledging your own struggle is crucial as well. Many times, we become afraid of putting ourselves outside our comfort zone and addressing our faults. By sharing our challenges with others, we can be open to support and guidance from those who have similar experiences or knowledge.

Personally, I have always viewed my challenges not as obstacles, but as lessons to be learned. Those lessons show us our own strengths, weaknesses, and capabilities, thus allowing us



to grow as individuals. They push us to become better versions of ourselves to discover our true inner passions and abilities. Overcoming challenges is a skill that ultimately helps you be more comfortable and develop over time. It is a testament to our own strength and ability to grow. At times, the challenges we face can seem daunting. With a clear mind and plan, we can create our own building blocks that will lead to a greater future. So, as you face your own challenge, embrace it, learn from it, and use it to forward yourself towards success and achievement.

— Jack Dameron, chairman

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— Jack Dameron

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cont. from front cover

it. I believe as members of the National Junior Angus Association we will be the future leaders of the agriculture industry and keepers of the flame for the farming and ranching lifestyle.

With less than 2% of the United States population

involved in agriculture, we carry a great responsibility to continue the legacy of supplying safe, healthy and nutritious food for our communities and the world. I believe the future is safe, with the members of the National Junior Angus Association being the next generation of leaders.

— Lauren Gilbert, vice chairman

Junior Board JAMS

MUSIC TO LISTEN TO IN THE BARN,
 ON THE WAY TO A SHOW, OR HANGING OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS.
 THIS IS OUR JUNIOR BOARD PLAYLIST!

1. FLY OVER STATES — Jason Aldean
2. TATTOO — Loreen
3. PORCH LIGHT — Josh Meloy
4. HEY DRIVER — Zach Bryan (feat. The War and Treaty)
5. LOSING SLEEP — Wyatt Flores
6. UP! — Shania Twain
7. LITTLE MISS MAGIC — Jimmy Buffet
8. WHITE HORSE — Chris Stapleton
9. WHEN THE CREDITS ROLL — George Strait
10. REVIVAL — Zach Bryan
11. RODEO — Futurebirds
12. THE RUT — Turnpike Troubadours

Where are they now?

WITH 3 PAST NJAA BOARD MEMBERS

We caught up with three past National Junior Angus Association board members. Hear their perspectives on how their NJAA involvement shaped them as youth, and how it still influences them today.

Jennifer Carrico | Iowa | 1992 - 1994, *communications director*

Mercedes Danekas | California | 2001 - 2003, *chairman*

Heather Kalino Shultz | Georgia | 1993 - 1995, *communications director*

Q: Where did you grow up? Where are you located now?

Jennifer: I moved back to the family farm in central Iowa 18 years ago. The farm, near Redfield, has been in the family for over 150 years and makes the word home have true meaning. We were chosen as one of the 40 barns to have the Certified Angus Beef logo painted on in the Brand the Barn campaign and we are very proud to have it showcased as the centerpiece of our farm.

Mercedes: I grew up in northern California, and I still reside in the state. Currently, I am blessed to have moved to Woodland, California 7 years ago where I am blessed to live on a gorgeous ranch with my husband and 6 year old son plus my mother who also resides on the ranch. We all work together to care for the animals and run an event/wedding venue from our property.

Heather: I grew up in a small farming community in California called Manteca. Located in the San Joaquin Valley where agriculture reigns supreme. Currently, we live in Danielsville, GA-Mirror K Farm; with my husband Todd and our girls. We have a small farm where we raise Angus and Limousin Cattle and Australian Shepherds.

Q: Are you still raising Angus cattle?

Jennifer: Yes. I still have a small herd of Angus cattle. Both of my children, Cassidy & Klayton Bremer, have raised and shown Angus cattle. They are actually the sixth generation to raise Angus cattle on our farm.

Mercedes: Yes, but not as many. When my father passed I took over running his business and this left less time for the cattle so we downsized the herd.

Heather: Yes, we have a small Angus herd comprised of retired show heifers where we produce replacements for our herd with the upper end considered as show heifers. Both of our daughters, Keely and Keaton, are members of the NJAA and Georgia Junior Angus Association. Keely has had the opportunity to attend both leadership events in 2023 Raising the Bar Conference-Clemson, SC, LEAD-Modesto, CA. Both girls have enjoyed showing Angus cattle at the local, state, regional and national level. Keely and Keaton have also worked hard to pair their heifers with quality genetics to produce replacements for their herd and that will also be respected in the show ring.

Q: How did the NJAA shape you and prepare you for your future?

Jennifer: Being involved in the NJAA gave me the opportunity to meet some amazing people from across the nation. They have become great leaders and professionals in their home areas. Running for and serving on the board gave me an opportunity to further develop leadership and communication skills that I have used throughout life. NJAA, along with other agricultural organizations, taught me the work ethic to start and complete the tasks at hand.

Mercedes: Growing up in the most prestigious breed association in North America allows you the opportunity to interact, compete and mature with individuals from all over the country and avenues of life. Just this alone taught me to accept, respect and encourage each and everyone you meet in life. Establishing these relationships naturally inspires one to be the best you can be and in turn motivates you to be a role model for all of those younger generations that looked up to the junior board. Even today, FFA members I assist, my own son and all those in my presence, I keep this in the back of my mind and work to always be approachable, accepting and treat others with the utmost respect.

Heather: The National Junior Angus Program provided a small-town girl from the west coast a ticket to learn about the vast diversity of the cattle industry throughout the country. The chance to travel and meet other cattle enthusiasts showed me the relationships started early continue to grow throughout your life. Through the program I learned valuable life skills that have benefited me as a spouse, parent and employee.

Q: Tell us about your professional path.

Jennifer: I have a bachelor's of science in animal science from Iowa State University with a minor in Journalism and Mass Communication. I currently serve as editor of Wallaces Farmer, the oldest agricultural publication in Iowa. When I went to college I wanted to be a veterinarian and while I did still get the animal science degree, I realized between my sophomore and junior year that I really enjoyed telling the agricultural story, so I added the journalism minor and have been in agricultural communications my entire career.

Mercedes: I am Vice-President of James Danekas & Associates (JDA). JDA is a full service seed stock cattle sales management company that has now been in business for 45 years. Originally, JDA focused and primarily serviced the Angus breed but today, JDA is the premier sales management company for the Wagyu breed in North America. We also publish an international publication, the Wagyu World magazine.

Heather: I am currently employed by Clemson Extension as the 4-H Agriculture & Animal, Youth Development Specialist.



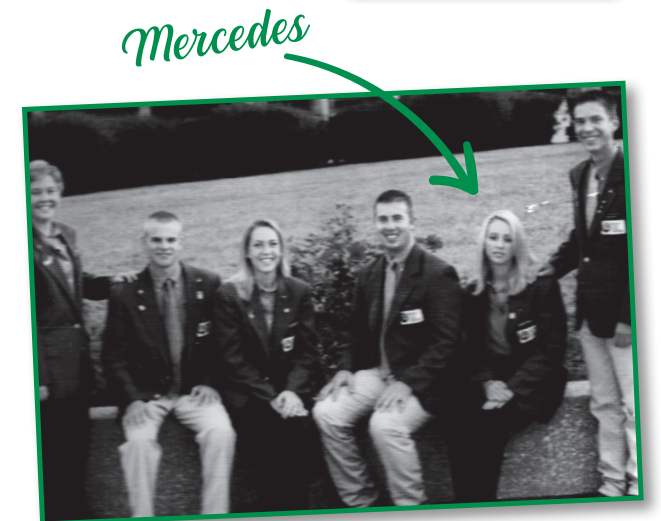
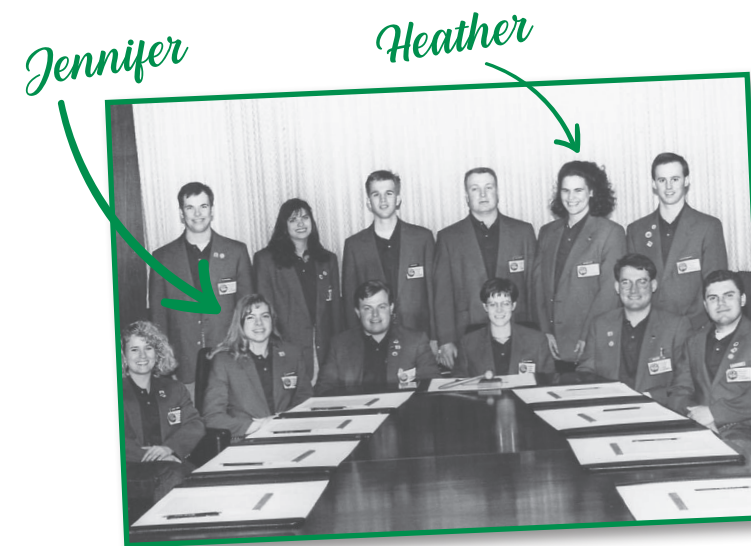
JENNIFER CARRICO



MERCEDES DANEKAS



HEATHER KALINO SHULTZ



150 Years of History: DID YOU KNOW?

With a legacy that spans more than 150 years, the vast history of our great breed offers me the opportunity to list some of the important dates that have impacted the Angus breed and its junior program.

- **1873:** George Grant transported four Angus bulls from Scotland to Victoria, KS
- **1883:** American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association founded in Chicago, IL, with 60 members
- **1950s:** Name shortened to American Angus Association
- **1951:** First junior membership issued
- **1952:** American Angus Auxiliary was chartered
- **1953:** First Silver Pitcher for young ladies presented at the Chicago International Stock Show
- **1956:** Junior Activities Department of the American Angus Association established
- **1967:** First National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest held at the All-American Angus Breeders Futurity in Lexington, KY
- **1969:** First National Junior Angus Show held in Columbia, MO
- **1972:** National Junior Recognition Program established with the Bronze and Silver Awards
- **1978:** Certified Angus Beef formed to provide assurances of beef quality and flavor to consumers
- **1980:** National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) formed and first NJAA board of directors elected at the National Junior Angus Heifer Show in Wichita, KS
- **1980:** Angus Foundation established to fund and support programs involving education, youth and research
- **1983:** First Angus Beef Cook-off held
- **1990:** First CAB/NJAA Scholarship awarded
- **1993:** LEAD Conference introduced
- **1993:** Silver Pitcher presentation expanded to include young men
- **1998:** First Angus Foundation Scholarships awarded
- **1999:** Janet Castle Crystal Award created to honor one boy and one girl that excelled in educational contest at NJAS
- **2002:** NJAS mentoring program started to allow mentors to assist new exhibitors
- **2007:** Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI®) established to assist producers with genetic evaluation of traits
- **2011:** First Raising the Bar held and structured around universities

Scan for more:



Although I have only listed some of our vast history, I am grateful to the American Angus Association for placing so much emphasis on its junior program and building future leaders for our breed for generations to come. As the fourth member of my immediate household to wear a green coat, I appreciate the groundwork laid before us to establish our Angus legacy as a junior program. For more important dates in the history of the junior activities department, go to www.angus.org/njaa/home/datesinhistory.

— Colter Pohlman, Foundation director

The Angus Legacy

For the past 150 years, Angus breeders have built a legacy. A legacy that started with George Grant bringing the first four Angus bulls to the prairies of Victoria, Kansas in 1873 has since impacted beef producers nationwide. This legacy is something to be proud of, and only made possible by producers like you. Your dedication and resolve make the American Angus Association what it is today. You are the foundation of the Angus legacy.

To celebrate the breed's past and bright future, the Angus Foundation has launched "A Legacy Built" campaign. This request asks every member to donate \$150 annually or \$12.50 a month to the Angus Foundation, designated to the Angus Fund,

in hopes of building unrestricted funds for Angus programs. The Angus Foundation offers programs that are second to none, focusing on education, youth, and research, all with the common goal of advancing the breed and upholding the dream of the Angus breed. Without the financial support from generous supporters of the Angus Foundation, these exceptional programs would not be possible.

"A Legacy Built" aims to reach all American Angus Association members, big or small. Through a one-time donation of \$150, or twelve monthly payments of \$12.50, equivalent to one McDonald's lunch, a member of any size can contribute to the Angus legacy. To be a part of "A Legacy Built," you can donate

through the Angus Foundation website at www.angus.org/Foundation/GetInvolved/AnnualFund.

If you are a past donor, we want to express our deepest thanks, and we greatly appreciate your unyielding generosity; we look forward to your continued support. If you've never been able to contribute to the Angus Foundation, we warmly invite you to consider joining the "A Legacy Built" campaign with us. Imagine the innovations and progress that could be made in the next 150 years. With everyone's support, the sky is the limit, and the advances we make together are unfathomable. Together, we can continue to build the Angus Legacy.

— Kyli Kraft, director

Donate here:



Matching Challenge

Can you match the New Six to their baby photos?



Contest Corner:

ALL-AMERICAN CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF® COOK-OFF



One of the best parts of the NJAS is the contests. These contests are a chance to sharpen your skills among your peers. Skills such as fitting, cooking, speaking, marketing, Angus history and many more can be mastered within your week at the NJAS. In my mind there is one contest in particular where a combination of these skills can be practiced, the CAB® Cook-Off.

The All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off is sponsored by the American Angus Auxiliary and is held every year at the National Junior Angus Show. Juniors compete in different age categories Junior, Intermediate, and Senior, as well as being divided by the cut of meat being prepared steaks, roasts, and other beef item categories. The juniors then prepare the cut of *Certified Angus Beef*® with appropriate sides and present the dish to judges along with a skit. Juniors are judged on their knowledge of *Certified Angus Beef*®, recipe, and content of the educational skit. Scan the QR code to learn more!

— Suter Clark, director



Learn more:



Lani's Fall Favorites:

- FAVORITE DESSERT:** Apple Pie
- FAVORITE CLOTHES:** Fuzzy Socks
- FAVORITE ACTIVITY:** Haunted Houses
- FAVORITE DRINK:** Pumpkin Spice Latte
- FAVORITE HOLIDAY:** Halloween

This or That? *circle one!*

- Spiced Cider **OR** Hot Tea
- Pumpkin Pie **OR** Apple Pie
- Corn Maze **OR** Hay Ride
- Carving Pumpkins **OR** Painting Pumpkins
- Scarves **OR** Cozy Socks
- Sweaters **OR** Flannel
- Journaling **OR** Hiking

Q&A: BREEDER EDITION

JOSH MOHNEN | MOHNEN ANGUS - WHITE LAKE, SD

Q: What are your family's goals as a breeder?

A: Our first family goal is customer satisfaction. If our customers aren't happy, we aren't happy. On the cattle side, our goal is to continue to create the Angus cow. We want cattle with good feet, good udders, easy flushing, and powerful cattle. It is our goal to keep these things in our herd.

Q: What sire group are you most excited about?

A: Next year in our 2024 sale we have two sons out of Pride we are excited about. We are also excited for our Historic and Ambassador calves which sold as our 1st and 2nd highest in the 2022 sale. These are two very different sires but unique in their own way.

Q: What has been your biggest achievement been an Angus breeder?

A: Dad started our operation back in 1986. One of our achievements is growing our family doing what we love raising cattle for the past 37 years. Another thing we are really proud of is our 2015 Grand Champion Carload Bulls at the Denver National Western Stock Show. Not only were we proud of what we presented, but this was a special pen to us. Six of the ten bulls were out of our sire Mohnen South Dakota 402. On top of that, all ten of the bulls had our bull Mohnen Jilt 910 on either the top or bottom sides of the pedigree.

Q: Where do you see the Angus breed as far as selling bulls and keeping our Angus females strong in the next 10 years?

A: We are a strong breed but keeping the emphasis on maternal traits and quality in our cattle is important. Without focusing on things like easy flushing traits, good udders, and good feet our breed is going to go backwards fast. Focusing on Angus cows will keep us a dominant breed. At the end of the day, if you don't have a good cow you aren't going to have the bulls to follow.

Q: What advice do you have for junior members?

A: The sky is the limit, but you have to work for it. The workday isn't over when the sun goes down. There are many different aspects of the Angus business, so if you want to be involved find your area. If you want something, you have to reach out and get it. The road may be bumpy, but hard work will pay off. Finally, if you are starting your herd, you need to pick cattle you like. People are going to tell you what they think you need, but you need to find your herd identity.

— Sawyer Styles, director

Tips & Tricks

PURSuing A LEADERSHIP POSITION



In light of the crowning of the 2024 Miss American Angus, I found it only fitting that I share some insight with you all on a few tips for the Miss American Angus contest. In this article, I have listed my biggest takeaways from the experience. Whether you are competing, plan to apply for the American Angus Auxiliary scholarship in hopes to run for MAA, or are pursuing any type of leadership position, I hope that you find this helpful!

PREPARE

Show up prepared! Be sure to use all of the American Angus Association, American Angus Auxiliary, Certified Angus Beef and National Junior Angus Association resources when preparing for the written test and interview. They are all helpful when learning and studying facts about the Angus industry. They can also be used as a resource for your prepared speech.

Depending on how you publicly speak best, it may be beneficial to have your speech written out and memorized. I found that the most helpful! Preparing for the contest sets you up for success and will help with all of the nerves.

BE YOURSELF AND KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE

Authenticity is key! Don't be afraid to show your true self when getting to know the contestants and the judges, but always remain professional. Remember that if you are crowned, you will be representing the entire Angus breed. Show them how you would do that. Think of how you would want the American Angus Auxiliary to be represented. Being yourself will also help you relax throughout the weekend!

ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE AND HAVE FUN

I know that this is a lot easier said than done, but it will truly make the weekend so much more

enjoyable. The MAA contest is a rare opportunity, so take full advantage of your time there! Beyond the MAA contest, there are many opportunities to learn and network with other Angus enthusiasts. Despite the outcome from the weekend, you will walk away having learned so many new things, so have fun!

No matter what your goal is within the Angus breed, each of these tips can be useful for any leadership or professional opportunity. Whether you're looking to be Miss American Angus or to seek out other leadership roles, remember to work hard and enjoy the experience! **Good luck!**

— Mary Wood, director

Auxiliary Recipe: FIESTA ROAST

This recipe comes to you from Shally Rogen, the 2016 president for the American Angus Auxiliary. Shally is no stranger to the NJAA! She is currently an NJAB advisor, and her passion stems from watching juniors get out of their comfort zones and excel in leadership roles. On top of this, she served as the SDJAA advisor for 16 years and during that time, her sons Andrew and Alex both served on the NJAB. In this edition, Shally brings us a recipe that won the 2008 Junior Roast Division at the National Junior Angus Show.

Using a crock pot, add the sliced onion and Rotel. Rub seasoning onto roast and top with salt and pepper. Cover and put on low for 7-8 hours. Then, shred beef and serve on soft shell tacos with the toppings of your choice.

— Alli Perry, director

- 1 medium onion, sliced
- 1 can of Rotel
- 1 package of burrito seasoning
- 3 lb Chuck Roast
- 10 soft shells



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IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

ENTRY DEADLINES

NOV. 15 - Ft. Worth entry deadline

NOV. 20 - Cattlemen's Congress & NWSS entry deadlines

DEC. 1 - Cattlemen's Congress & NWSS ownership deadline

DEC. 5 - Cattlemen's Congress late entry deadline

DEC. 20 - NWSS late entry deadline

FEB. 1 - MAJAC ownership and entry deadline

FEB. 10 - MAJAC late entry deadline

MARCH 1 - Advisor of the Year and Honorary Angus Foundation nomination deadline

MARCH 1 - Western Regional Junior Angus Show and Phenotype and Genotype Show ownership and early entry deadline

MARCH 15 - Western Regional Junior Angus Show and Phenotype and Genotype Show late entry deadline

JUNIOR SHOWS & EVENTS

NOV. 12 - NAILE Junior Show | Louisville, KY

JAN. 4 - Cattlemen's Congress Junior Show | Oklahoma City, OK

JAN. 11 - NWSS Junior Show | Denver, CO

MARCH 8-10 - MAJAC | Harrisonburg, VA

MARCH 21-24 - Raising the Bar Conference | Denver, CO

APRIL 10-13 - Western Regional Junior Angus Show | Reno, NV

For more information on specific show entry and ownership dates, visit www.angus.org/njaa.

Be sure to check the calendar and website for updates.