

DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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Retallick Receives 2006 Outstanding Leadership Award

One of the goals of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) is to develop the leadership potential of its members to help them become tomorrow's industry leaders. Each year, a deserving member is chosen. The winner is recognized at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) and presented the Outstanding Leadership Award at the American Angus Association

Annual Banquet during the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. The award was instituted in 1994 in memory of Barbara Smalstig and her support of the NJAA.

This year's winner hails from the state of Wisconsin. Keela Retallick is currently a senior in animal science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She plans to attend veterinary school after she graduates.

Keela held several offices in the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association (WJAA), including being the president for two years. She was named the Junior of the Year in Wisconsin twice and received her Bronze, Silver and Gold awards from the NJAA. She led the charge



Winning the Outstanding Leadership Award is Keela Retallick (left), Glen Haven, Wis. Renee Thelen, former NJAA leadership director, presents the award.

in setting up a regional Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference in her home state, as well as helping to institute the NJAS Mentoring Program in 2002 when the show was in Wisconsin.

While in college, Keela has been active in both the Saddle & Sirloin club and the Sigma Alpha sorority. For Saddle & Sirloin she chaired the Badger Kick-off Classic and worked in the Agriculture in the

Classroom program with Sigma Alpha. While president of the WJAA, Keela urged members to attend the NJAS and encouraged members who did attend to compete in contests.

Keela was chosen from a competitive group of applicants who submitted their report forms and letters of recommendation to the American Angus Association office. The form, which is comprised mainly of listed leadership examples, is available on the NJAA web site at www.njaa.info.

We congratulate Keela on her outstanding achievements and the leadership qualities that have earned her this award.

— Joe Epperly

Earlier NJAS Deadlines

The 2007 National Junior Angus Show will be July 1-7, in Tulsa, Okla. Because of this earlier show date it is necessary to move the ownership and entry deadline for the show to May 15, 2007. In addition, there will be a May 15 entry deadline for the following contests: photography, writing, graphic design and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® Cook-Off. The deadline to submit outlines for the prepared speech contest will be June 10.

Check the National Junior Angus Association web site at www.njaa.info for all the contest changes and complete contest rules.

Dreams Fulfilled at NJAS

This summer Angus enthusiasts from all across America gathered for what was to be a week of excitement, fulfillment of dreams and making of lifelong memories at "All Roads Lead to the '06 Show" in Indianapolis, Ind. The National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), the largest single-breed show in the world, was July 9-15, 2006. The Indiana Junior Angus Association went over and above to make this one of the most memorable nationals to date; their hospitality was unprecedented.

Opening ceremonies kicked off the event with Master of Ceremonies Tom Burke announcing the distinguished guests, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board, junior exhibitors and family as they were shuttled around the ring in classic cars. After the ceremonies, it was time for the street party, which included dunk tanks, crafts and face paint, a climbing wall, and banana splits.

Throughout the week, junior members were involved in various contests, such as prepared public speaking and extemporaneous public speaking, the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook Off, quiz bowl, and team sales. Highlights of the week were two new contests, team fitting and livestock judging.

Juniors exhibited 1,177 head. Jeff Dameron, Lexington, Ill., judged the 253 bred-and-owned females, 86 bred-and-owned bulls and 52 cow-calf pairs. Leading BCC Extravagant Elaine 056, the Grand Champion Bred-and-Owned Female this year, was Justin Brosey of Hamilton, Ohio. Reserve Champion went to Katrina Frey of

Quarryville, Pa., with Frey KJF Ark Pride M35-P48.

Capturing Champion Owned Cow-Calf Pair was Gamble's Miss Famous 621, shown by Kristen Oaks of Calhoun, La. Reserve Champion went to DCC Miss Evergreen 441, shown by Danielle Foster, Niles, Mich.

In the Bred-and-Owned Cow-Calf Show, Champion went to PAF 0240-C00 MI 439, shown by Kassandra Pfeiffer, Orlando, Okla., and Reserve Champion went to Boyd Forever Lady 4004, shown by Blake Boyd, Mays Lick, Ky.

Katy Satree, Montague, Texas, showed the Grand Champion Bred-and-Owned Bull, DAJS Royal Edition 212. Blake Boyd led the Reserve Champion Bred-and-Owned Bull, Boyd Voyager 5116.

Doug Parrett, Urbana, Ill. evaluated the 688 owned females. Jessica Willis of Union Bridge, Md., led Gamble's Shadoe to the winner's circle. Reserve Champion went to Champion Hill Lady 4618, shown by Callie Smith, Lebanon, Tenn.

Scott Bush, Britton, S.D., judged the 72 steers in the live evaluation, while 26 steers competed in the carcass contest. Thornbrook



New Design 4135 was named Grand Champion Steer for Kimberly Long, Airville, Pa. Reserve went to Champion Hill Edition 4474, shown by Kaitlyn Clarke,

West Chester, Ohio. Flinton McCabe, Elk City, Kan., exhibited the Grand Champion Carcass Steer, and Sarah Butler of Bliss, Idaho, exhibited the Reserve Champion Carcass Steer.

The 40th annual showmanship contest took place this year at the NJAS with 43 contestants from 26 states. Layne Armbruster, Burlington, Okla. took top honors. Rounding out the top five were Darin Wiley, Saint Francis, Kan., second; Andrew Foster, Niles, Mich., third; Justin Moritz, Piper City, Ill., fourth; and Gina Blanton, Marlow, Okla., fifth.

Congratulations to all juniors on all they accomplished this year at the NJAS. A special thank-you goes to all of the people involved in making this year's event one to remember. For complete results of the show and photographs go to www.angusjournal.com/njas. Make sure you mark your calendars to attend the 2007 NJAS in Tulsa, Okla.

—Justin Brosey

Colvin Scholarship to Award Five Scholarships Totaling \$7,500!

The Colvin Scholarship Foundation is seeking applicants for its 2007 scholarships. Application deadline is Dec. 15, 2006. All qualified college juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply.

The scholarships will be awarded in January 2007 to a junior- or senior-level college student demonstrating a commitment to the beef industry through the pursuit of a meat science, food science, animal science, marketing, business,

communications, journalism, or other degree related to the beef industry through activities and curriculum.

Applications are available at www.certifiedangusbeef.com/press/csf/index.php.

For more information, please contact: Vickie Catteau at 1-800-225-2333, Ext. 268, or by e-mail at vcatteau@certifiedangusbeef.com.

Meet the Six New Green Jackets

Each year, six new members are elected to serve on the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors to help with planning and implementing ideas for the NJAA. This is your first chance to get a sneak peek into the lives of the six newly elected members of the NJAA Board.



Justin Brosey

Age: 20
Hometown: Hamilton, Ohio
College major: Special education and elementary education
One word to describe you: Confident
Favorite color: Baby blue
Favorite food: Anything pasta
Favorite TV show: *Friends*

Your theme song: "It's My Life" by Bon Jovi
Interesting fact about yourself: I love to play beach volleyball.
One thing you plan to bring to the NJAA Board: A creative point of view



Andrew Foster

Age: 20
Hometown: Niles, Mich.
College major: Ag business
One word to describe you: Determined
Favorite color: Blue
Favorite food: Chicken parmesan
Favorite TV show: *House*
Your theme song: "Let's Go" by Lil' Jon

Interesting fact about yourself: I love playing basketball.
One thing you plan to bring to the NJAA Board: Hard work, dedication and a positive role model



Joe Epperly

Age: 20
Hometown: Moneta, Va.
College major: Civil engineering with an animal science minor
One word to describe you: Candid
Favorite color: Green
Favorite food: Mom's spaghetti
Favorite TV show: *That 70s Show*

Your theme song: "Living in Fast Forward" by Kenny Chesney
Interesting fact about yourself: I was the Virginia State FFA Vice President in 2005-2006.
One thing you plan to bring to the NJAA Board: Enthusiasm



Dana May

Age: 21
Hometown: Mineral Point, Wis.
College major: Child psychology
One word to describe you: Energetic
Favorite color: Yellow
Favorite food: Red grapes (or any other kind of fruit)
Favorite TV show: *Grey's Anatomy*

Your theme song: "Take Me as I Am" by Mary J. Blige
Interesting fact about yourself: I was able to go to England three times before graduating high school.
One thing you plan to bring to the NJAA Board: An open mind with a positive attitude



Rebecca Tokach

Age: 19
Hometown: Saint Anthony, N.D.
College major: Animal sciences and industry
One word to describe you: Driven
Favorite color: Green
Favorite food: Knephla soup
Favorite TV show: *The O.C.*
Your theme song: "She Ain't Your Ordinary Girl" by Alabama

Interesting fact about yourself: I hate chocolate!
One thing you plan to bring to the NJAA Board: My passion for Angus cattle and youth



Kara Wilson

Age: 19
Hometown: Orleans, Ind.
College major: Ag communications and advertising
One word to describe you: Vibrant!
Favorite color: Green
Favorite food: Roast beef and cheesy potatoes

Favorite TV show: Sunday afternoon football
Your theme song: "Things Look Good" by Roger Creager
Interesting fact about yourself: I love to draw, and someday I want to create and market my own Angus/farm artwork and prints.
One thing you plan to bring to the NJAA Board: I want to help junior members develop leadership skills, and I hope to encourage them to become passionate about what they do in life and within the Angus industry.

— Kristen Oaks

VanderSloots Donate 2007 Angus Foundation Heifer

Frank and Belinda VanderSloot, owners of Riverbend Ranch, Idaho Falls, Idaho, will donate the heifer for the 2007 Angus Foundation Heifer Package, set to sell at 2 p.m., Jan. 11, 2007, during the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo.

Riverbend Rita R125, a January 2005 daughter of Bon-View New Design 1407, will headline the package. Her dam is GAR Precision 1919, a daughter of GAR Precision 1680. R125 is bred to Mytty In Focus and is due to calve March 13, 2007, making this an even more attractive package.

In addition to the heifer, the buyer will receive 30 days of free insurance from American Live Stock Insurance Co., Geneva, Ill. Free transportation to the buyer's farm or ranch is provided by Lathrop Livestock Transportation, Dundee, Ill., and a flush and three embryo implants into the buyer's recipient cows comes from Trans Ova Genetics, Sioux Center, Iowa.

The sale of the package will precede the National Western Angus Bull Sale, scheduled



Riverbend Rita R125

to take place in the Beef Palace Auction Arena. All proceeds from the heifer package go to the Angus Foundation, a not-for-profit organization that funds and supports programs involving education, youth and research in the Angus breed and the agricultural industry.

The focus of the Angus Foundation has been education, and today the Angus Foundation is striving to increase its portfolio of funding to better address the educational

needs of Angus breeders of all ages. Increased opportunities for education will help to build a solid base of Angus knowledge within the entire membership and will aid in securing a more profitable future for the agricultural industry. The Angus Foundation will educate Angus breeders through "think tanks" and seminars that promote understanding of the Angus breed and the beef cattle industry on pertinent topics, such as genetics, reproduction, management, marketing, processing and food safety.

Progressive strides by the Angus Foundation in its numerous educational, youth and research pursuits will be taken as a result of the generosity of Angus breeders such as the VanderSloots. This support and the support made by all donors, regardless of level of financial participation or activity supported, will empower all of us involved in the Angus breed to experience a positive difference from the resulting growth in our education, youth and research capabilities.

— *Andrew Foster & Meghan Richey*

Magic of the Vine Reaps a Bountiful Harvest

Wow! That's all I can say about the Magic of the Vine Benefit Dinner and Auction. I had the opportunity along with two other National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board Members, Zebadiah Gray and Andrew



The Magic of the Vine Benefit Dinner and Auction raised more than \$194,000 for the Angus Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Andrew Foster, NJAA director; Mr. and Mrs. Jim Coleman, hosts; Milford Jenkins, Foundation president; and Zebadiah Gray, NJAA membership director.

Foster, to go to the Magic of the Vine. It was in Modesto, Calif., home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Coleman, owners of Vintage Angus Ranch. It was amazing to watch people walk into this first-class event. I did not realize the support the adults give to us juniors.

The Magic of the Vine was a dinner to support the Angus Foundation, which supports education, youth and research. Activities included a wine tasting for the adults, as well as silent and live auctions. Items of interest ranged from a golf trip to Pebble Beach to a ski trip for four. The items that were donated were amazing. The goal was to raise \$100,000, and they exceeded that goal by raising more than \$194,000 in gross revenue. That was exciting!

As an NJAA Board Member, I was amazed to see the adults give so

much to the Foundation. Without these kinds of events that are put on by the Angus Foundation, we would not have the junior activities we do.

The opportunities that the adult association gives to our junior association is great. Without its generosity and support, we would not be able to put on activities like the LEAD Conference and the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), let alone have the scholarships that the Angus Foundation awards. As juniors, we should take advantage of the opportunities put before us.

It takes a lot of people to put on an event like the Magic of the Vine. Thank you to Milford Jenkins and his crew at the Angus Foundation. A huge thank you to Vintage Angus for hosting the event. And thank you to everyone who participated.

We should thank the adults at every opportunity, because their support makes the NJAA what it is today.

— *Amanda Schnoor*

Congratulations, Junior Angus Members

The American Angus Auxiliary was extremely excited about the involvement this past year from National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members in activities the Auxiliary sponsored at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). The level of competition is raised every year for the Crystal Award, Silver Pitcher awards, scholarships, showmanship contest, All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off and speech contests. Congratulations to the winners!

The American Angus Auxiliary gives Certificates of Achievement every year to outstanding NJAA members who excel on district, state and national levels. The application is on the Auxiliary web site (www.angusauxiliary.com). The calendar year includes shows and competitions from Aug. 1 of the prior year to Aug. 1 of the current year. The deadline for the application is Nov. 1.

If you have questions about the form or award, contact Sonja Martin, achievement award chairman, at smartin@greenwood.K12.ar.us, epaangus@cei.net or (479) 674-2510. Certificate award winners will be listed in the *Angus Journal* in the spring.

The 2007 scholarship application is already on the Auxiliary web site and can be downloaded. If you are a senior in high school graduating in May of 2007, I hope you will consider applying for an auxiliary scholarship.

You must first apply on the state level. You will need to contact your state auxiliary

scholarship chairman for the state application deadline. State contacts will be listed in the Auxiliary annual report printed in the February *Angus Journal*. Each state deadline will be different from the national date listed on the web site.

If your state does not have a scholarship chairman, contact 2007 Auxiliary Scholarship Chairwoman Nancy Thelen, Saline, Mich., at (734) 944-6262 or hillsideacres01@aol.com about your application. Each state will be selecting one boy and one girl winner to be a state representative on the national level. A total of 10 scholarships will be presented at the NJAS in Tulsa, Okla., next summer. Five boys and five girls will be awarded scholarships.

It's not too early to start thinking about the 2007 NJAS and the contests you want to participate in. Finding those winning recipes, taking those awesome photographs, thinking about speech topics and selecting your show prospects for this next year are probably on the list.

Many of you will be showing this fall at many of the junior shows on the state, regional and national level. A recent e-mail was sent to me titled "Top Reasons that Prove You Show Cattle." It made me smile when I read it because a lot was true. I hope you enjoy it. Good luck in your fall and winter activities!

— Sharee Sankey

Top Reasons that Prove You Show Cattle

- The cashier at Wal-Mart looks at you like you're crazy for buying 20 cans of pink oil.
- Your favorite aroma is Final Bloom!™
- You taste the cattle feed before they do.
- You have decorated your Christmas tree with black cattle, purple lights and silver tinsel.
- Your barn has air conditioning but your house doesn't.
- You put surround sound in your barn since you spend so much time there.
- You used to have money, but now you show cattle.
- Your cattle look and smell better than you do.
- You know you show too much when your cattle load themselves.
- You know where every state fairgrounds is in the tri-state area.
- You have insurance on yourself, your truck, your trailer AND your show cattle.
- When people can't reach you at home, they know they can find you at the show barn.
- You spend more on supplies for cattle hair than your own hair.
- Your vacation is the National Junior Angus Show.
- Your truck and trailer are nicer than your house.
- You always have a sire book or sale book with you.
- Your cattle are more important than your boyfriend/girlfriend.

Angus Foundation Awards \$100,000 in Scholarships

The Angus Foundation increased its commitment to support youth this past year by increasing the amount of scholarships from \$25,000 to \$100,000. This available amount of scholarships for Angus youth is made possible by the generous financial support from Angus breeders, allied industry interests and friends of the Angus Foundation through the Angus Foundation Heifer Package, outright cash gifts and other fundraising activities.

Two \$5,000 scholarships were given in memory of former American Angus Association Executive Vice President Richard L. "Dick" Spader. In addition, 20 \$3,000 scholarships and 30 \$1,000 scholarships were



given. Scholarship recipients were recognized at the 2006 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in July in Indianapolis, Ind.

The eligibility requirements for these general Angus Foundation scholarships remain the same. Angus youth who are graduating from high school or in college currently may be eligible to apply for other Angus-related scholarships such as the new Woodlawn Farms

Angus Scholarship, the Joseph and Ruby Schaff/Schaff Angus Ranch Scholarship, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA)/Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) Scholarship and others that are permanently endowed and managed by the Angus Foundation.

Remember, the only way you don't have chance to win is if you don't apply. So fill out all the scholarship applications you are eligible for, and thank the people who are responsible for making those scholarships possible. For more information, go to www.angusfoundation.org.

— Zebadiah Gray

James' Junction

Cool, crisp, sunshiny morning. Trees painted in orange, yellow, and brown. Yards bordered by the brilliant, deep hue of purple and gold flowers. Hazy, red sunsets. High school football under the lights. The season has changed again.

This quote came from a weekly e-newsletter I receive titled *A Higher Call* written by Rex & Mitzi Zenger. These, the introductory sentences to their weekly article, then expanded into a greater understanding of how, just as the seasons change, so too do our lives. We change grades or we may graduate and move to the next opportunity in life, and most of these changes slip by without us really noticing the difference or the change as we become very comfortable knowing that this is expected and is a part of our ever-changing lives.

As we take this analogy and apply it to associations, it is easy to see that associations have seasons. These seasons are typically a few years in length versus a few months, but nonetheless, they are still there. They are seasons of strong membership growth, seasons of stagnant membership, seasons



of financial strength, seasons of constantly raising funds, seasons of very active membership and seasons of lackluster membership.

Our junior associations change with the changing of the season. With every member who graduates from the junior programs and with every new member who joins, the dynamics of the association change. Because of this, it is important that we continually renew and educate the membership, revisiting the basics and building from them to create an association of strength.

Understanding this and having a clear mission and purpose for the organization is important as it will dictate how successful the organization is when it goes through those seasons of low membership growth and involvement. More importantly, it will also dictate how the organization handles those times of great involvement and success. Keeping the membership grounded — yet always looking towards the future, planning and changing to meet the needs of the ever-changing membership — will keep the association strong and will allow it to weather the changing of the seasons.

— James Fisher

Chairman's Perspective:

"I wanna be big some day ..." junior Angus member Kevin Gleason sings in his debut album. Like Kevin, we all want to be big someday; we all have dreams of success and making it to the big time. I would ask you, what does it take to be big? What does it mean to be successful?

Webster defines success as the attainment of wealth, favor or eminence. Society tells us that being rich and famous is success, and that without money you can never be successful. But does money always equal success? Are all rich folks successful?

When I was young, like everyone else my age, I aspired to be rich and famous. As I have grown older, however, my definition of success and what defines success have certainly changed. Today, success to me is much more real, and it's so much more than just money or material things. True

success, in my mind, is being happy with who and what you are, and doing the things that make you happy each day.

Success doesn't really have one definition; success is defined by each of us in a different manner. The things that make me successful aren't the same things that make George Strait successful, just like the things that make you successful aren't the same things that make Peyton Manning successful. I encourage each of you to define your success and do the work necessary to attain that success. Work hard and never give up.

— Alex Tolbert



Changes to Come to CAB Qualifications

One of the most well-known aspects of today's Angus industry is the Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) program. Catering to restaurants and grocery stores across the country since 1978, CAB has taken the Angus breed to a new level, but the standards are about to rise.

Over the past few months, the directors of the program have been making some changes, including allowing AngusSource®-enrolled cattle to be eligible for the program. This would allow cattle that would not meet the 51% black hide requirement, but would otherwise qualify, to still make CAB if they were genetically verified through AngusSource.

At its June meeting, the CAB Board of Directors reevaluated the standards that CAB is held to in an effort to increase the level of uniformity in the product. In the past, there have been eight strict carcass specifications that an animal meeting the live-animal specifications must meet to qualify for CAB.

One of the standards that has been in place in the past has been that the carcass must be a yield grade (YG) 3.9 or leaner to ensure a desirable level of fat coverage. This summer, it was decided that this specification needed to be modified and its purpose defined more.

According to Steve Suther, the industry information director for CAB, this standard will be replaced by three criteria wrapped into one step. Carcasses will have to have a ribeye area in the range of 10 to 16 square inches and a carcass weight of no more than 999 pounds. A fat thickness requirement is yet to be determined.

Suther says the new requirements are designed to increase the uniformity of the CAB product and make it more desirable for buyers. He also added that one of the best ways for younger members to become involved in the carcass end of the industry is to check with your state associations about opportunities for carcass futurities and other types of events.

Aside from being the world's premium brand of fresh beef, *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) brings a lot to the NJAA. Every year, juniors participate in the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef Cook-Off* at the National Junior Angus Show, and each year CAB offers scholarship opportunities to college-age members. It is a program that brings a great deal to the breed and to the association as a whole.

— Kara Wilson

NJAA Directors Make Changes to Contests

The year 2006 was a banner year for the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), with the birth of a new contest, the Team Fitting Competition, as well as the rebirth of the Cattle Judging Contest. Both contests were well-received with a high number of participants — 20 teams in team fitting and a total of 342 contestants in the judging contest. These contests — as well as the team sales, photography and project of the year competitions — will see some refinement for 2007.

The Team Fitting Competition is an exciting, fast-paced event that involves four members, all from the same state, with at least one person representing each age division. In 2006, teams were allowed 30 minutes to fit their animal, during which time each individual was required to fit a leg and use the clippers and the blower. Each team must supply its own washed and dried animal and provide its own electricity, chute and fitting equipment.

After the animal has been fitted, a team member must parade it in front of a panel of judges and answer questions about the fitting process. Points are awarded on ability to fit, organization of equipment and supplies, participation of each team member, overall effect, and knowledge and response to questions. The judging panel is made up of three judges who rank each team on a scale of 50 points maximum from each judge. Final placings are determined by the combined rankings (actual scores only used in case of tie) of all three judges.

In 2007, the time allowed to fit will be reduced from 30 minutes to 20 minutes, and state associations without enough members present to compete will be allowed to ask junior members from any state to compete on their team.

Last conducted at the 1993 NJAS, the Cattle Judging Contest was a welcome return. Its 300-plus participants made it one of the largest contests at the 2006 NJAS. Contestants evaluated four classes of cattle — two classes of heifers, one class of bulls and one class of steers. They also answered 10 questions and guessed the weight of a bull for a tiebreaker. Clint Rusk, Tom Younts and Phil Reid, all of Purdue University, coordinated with the Indiana juniors to conduct the event.

Next year, the Oklahoma and Arkansas juniors will be working with the faculty of Oklahoma State University and Express Ranches to organize the contest. Expect a shorter contest time in 2007, with less judging time per class, as well as the possibility of a

performance class to be judged on performance data as well as phenotype.

Other contests that will see rule changes are the team sales, photography and project of the year. The presentation limit for the Team Sales Competition will be decreased to 8 minutes before points are deducted, and the judges will be allowed 2 minutes to ask questions.

The rules for the photo contest will be changed to require a CD copy with digital photos and to allow a 10x14-inch mat for the photos.

There will be no project of the year contest in 2007.

With the appearance of new contests and improvement in others, the stage is set for the 2007 NJAS to be one of the best yet. I'm excited to see you all in Tulsa, and hope that you will take advantage of all the contests the NJAA has to offer. Check out the NJAA web site, www.njaa.info, for all contest rules and deadlines.

— Joe Epperly

JUST NJAA

A S C H O L A R S H I P S I N K H A
 G N S O E N S C E C A Y T J R A N A
 T S E T N O C P I H S N A M W O H S
 W P F W R A N G L E R S T N I I T L
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 C S E R N G R E H S I F S E M A J S
 D I R E C T O R F E T F T A B U C A

GREEN JACKETS
 LEAD CONFERENCE
 FRIENDSHIPS
 PHOTOGRAPHY
 TRAVEL
 SCHOLARSHIPS
 ANGUS CATTLE
 SHOWMANSHIP CONTEST

MENTORS
 DIRECTOR
 JAMES FISHER
 STATE ASSOCIATIONS
 LEADERSHIP
 ANGUS FOUNDATION
 JUNIORS
 CRYSTAL AWARD

SHOW SUPPLIES
 RIBBONS
 NJAS
 FUN
 BEEF COOK OFF
 TEAM SALES
 WRANGLERS
 SOCIALS

Doug and Glenda Schroeder Honored as Advisors of the Year

Iowa Junior Angus Advisors Doug and Glenda Schroeder were honored at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) as Advisors of the Year for their longtime commitment to the junior association. For the past 13 years, the Schroeders have been a source of support and encouragement for the associations they serve. Iowa Auxiliary President Peggy Sullivan says, “They have those qualities that you want in any leader — integrity, commitment, courage, focus, generosity, competence, passion, self-discipline, servanthood, a positive attitude and decision.”

Mary Greiman, president-elect of the American Angus Auxiliary, echoes those kind words and says, “They are role models for all of us (both juniors and adults).”

The Schroeders gave endless time and ideas to juniors preparing for the showing as well as cook-off skits, quizzes for quiz bowl, and posters and pictures. They served as co-chairmen of the NJAS in Des Moines, Iowa, in 2000 and have

again generously offered their expertise to chair the show in 2008. “They are always there to step up and motivate everyone to do the best job we can,” Iowa Junior Bridget Driscoll says.

Mrs. Schroeder recalls getting started as an advisor saying, “It was fun to be with all the kids, and we already had three; why not 150?” The Schroeders have enjoyed watching “their” juniors as they grow up and are proud to see all they have accomplished. They continue to encourage them to take advantage of all the opportunities that the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) has to offer and to never say you can’t until you’ve tried.

“Each individual can excel in their own way, and you can’t buy that kind of personal achievement,” she says.

We appreciate the example that Doug and Glenda Schroeder have set for all juniors and the endless encouragement to always strive for our best.

— Dana May



Spotlight on Michigan Junior Angus Association

Madonna, Thomas Edison, Magic Johnson, Tim Allen, Charles Lindbergh and “Sugar” Ray Robinson all have called Michigan home at one point in their lives. Michigan is also the home to the first soda, pop, “Coke” or whatever name you would like to call it. Not only is Michigan well-known for its people, inventions and sites, it is also the home of a very successful junior Angus organization.

The Michigan Junior Angus Association (MJAA) was organized in 1966. “Angus breeders had the foresight to provide opportunities for young Angus breeders to learn leadership skills, promote the breed, train future leaders, develop interest in Angus cattle, and become part of the youth activities department of the American Angus Association,” stated Nancy Thelen, one of four current advisors to the MJAA.

Since its start 40 years ago, the MJAA has grown to stand 77 members strong, with new families becoming interested in membership yearly. Each year the association conducts three to four board meetings and two membership meetings. In addition, it hosts workshops or

fundraising activities to get junior and adult members involved.

In 2005, the Michigan juniors conducted a workshop, “Focus on Youth,” to assist juniors with written and verbal communication skills and to prepare young people for completing award applications. This year they conducted a workshop to prepare and encourage juniors for competition in state and national contests.

According to Thelen, the MJAA’s vision is to: “Provide the opportunity for youth interested in Angus cattle to develop leadership skills and form lifelong relationships through activities associated with the Angus breed.” This is evident in other activities in which they participate, whether it would be fundraising or even contest participation.

At this year’s National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Indianapolis, Ind., the MJAA packed their aisle with 33 juniors attending the show. At the show they had junior participants in every NJAS contest and were very successful. Within those contests, Michigan juniors walked away with 17 individual and state awards. They also had three first-place class rankings in

the show and even a reserve grand champion winner.

Over the years the MJAA has had nine National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board members who have brought innovative and unique ideas to the national level. When asked the benefit of being a member of the MJAA, we turn to a quote from a former MJAA member who says, “It has been one of the most rewarding choices I have made. I have met friends I would have never had, and I have traveled to cities I would have never visited. I have learned self-confidence and self-discipline. I can honestly say that the Michigan Junior Angus Association has encouraged me to become a better person.”

The Michigan Junior Angus Association has had a very successful year, but the future looks even more exciting. Mrs. Thelen concluded by saying, “The juniors have been very successful, in part due to their setting goals for what they want to accomplish and then making a plan to get it done. We have outstanding juniors and wonderful supporters in Michigan.”

— Tracee Veenstra

Angus Youth “Wrangle Up” Their Future at 2006 Lead Conference



Young Angus enthusiasts from across the U.S., Australia and Canada converged in Oklahoma City, Okla., Aug. 3-6, 2006, to be a part of the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, which had a record-breaking 197 participants. The Conference allows junior members, advisors, chaperones and staff the opportunity to increase leadership skills and learn more about the agricultural and Angus industries, while making lifelong friendships and memories with other National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members.

The theme for this year's conference was “Wranglin’ Up Your Future.” The Conference offered NJAA members the opportunity to look to the future with activities of goal setting, team building, personal leadership development, and updates on current issues of the Angus and agriculture industries.

The conference kicked off with some interesting icebreakers that allowed some participants the opportunity to step outside their comfort zones. The activities included “balloon bump,” “human pretzel” and “baby I love you, won’t you please smile.” Though these activities were somewhat scary at first, they help set the mood for the next few days as young Angus enthusiasts got acquainted with their new friends.

Mr. Bob Funk, a well-known Angus breeder and industry leader, spoke to the crowd of juniors, parents and advisors on Thursday evening. Mr. Funk is the owner of Express Ranches and Express Personnel Services, a staffing solutions company with 563 domestic and international franchises. He encouraged NJAA members to place the utmost importance in acquiring values and a strong work ethic.

“I’ll take a loyal, hard-working employee any day over one that just has intellect,” he told the juniors. “I can teach you the skills you need, but I can’t teach values like loyalty and work ethic. That has to be the root of your character for you to succeed or be a leader.” Mr. Funk gave the participants much to think about for their future.

The first night of activities ended with a little entertainment as the NJAA Board presented

the first NJAA womanless beauty pageant. The participants were split into workshop groups and were given the challenge of dressing one male participant in the outfit provided by the Board Members. The competition was very competitive; however, just like in any competition, there could only be one winner. Mr. Jon Paul Whitlock took top honors with his “Blast from the Past” performance. After the pageant, the NJAA Board presented its version of *Grease* with a twist. Everyone enjoyed the evening of entertainment.

Motivational speaker Mr. Rhett Laubach introduced the crowd to the concept of personal leadership intelligence (PLI), which he defined as “an individual’s understanding of how to positively influence people and situations to create value and growth.” He explained that the growth of an individual’s PLI helps in the transition from a “leader in waiting” to a “leader in gear.”

Mr. Laubach reminded the conference participants that “being a leader is not about being in charge of other people. Leaders operate for the benefit of others, not themselves.” Through team-building exercises emphasizing values and accountability as well as goal-setting activities, Mr. Laubach motivated juniors to be active leaders for the NJAA and the Angus industry. For more information on PLIs, visit www.whatsmypli.org.

On the second day of the conference, the participants loaded the tour buses for an exciting look at what the Sooner State had to offer. Stops during the day trip included the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, the Historic Oklahoma Stockyards and Blackjack Angus/Grissom Implement. We were welcomed at Blackjack Angus by the gracious Grissom family, which is a part of the NJAA history with two generations of NJAA directors. The juniors and advisors were treated to a tasty lunch and provided the opportunity to view some equipment from Grissom Implement as well as some great Angus genetics.

The tour continued with the Oklahoma City Stockyards and a bit of shopping in the stockyards district. From there, the group was

off to dinner and a Red Hawks baseball game in the blistering heat. However, temperatures over 100° F didn’t smolder the fun had by all at the game.

The final stop on the tour for the evening was the Oklahoma City National Memorial, the site of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, where a truck bomb took the lives of 168 innocent people in 1995. The illuminated monument was humbling and a perfect backdrop for the newly elected directors to hold a vespers service. The service was conducted under the memorial’s “Survivor Tree,” which withstood the deadly blast of that terrible day.

In addition to the speakers and tours, the directors of the NJAA Board presented interactive workshops dealing with industry and interpersonal development. A workshop on self-image allowed participants to think about their personal strengths as well as short- and long-term goals as they drew self-portraits.

One workshop, Survey Says, focused on the participants’ knowledge of Angus trivia, while another allowed attendees to refine public speaking skills while debating a variety of industry issues. The final workshop focused on the participants’ knowledge of expected progeny differences (EPDs) and livestock evaluation skills. This workshop concluded with a mock auction to allow the participants to use their redefined skills. All those in attendance “Wrangled Up” some valuable skills for the future.

The final evening was spent at Express Ranch. Guided tours of the facilities awaited conference participants before the evening meal and a dance. It was evident that all enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Funk and the staff of Express Ranches.

LEAD is conducted annually for NJAA members 14 to 21 years of age. The Angus Foundation generously funds this unique event.

Plan to join us in Athens, Ga., for the 2007 LEAD Conference.

— *Kindra Wood*

