



DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506-2997
816-383-5100 • www.njaa.info • info@njaa.info

Fall 2015

LEAD 2015

Recap on page 6

Chairman's Perspective: Making an impact

County fair. 8 years old. White beat-up tennis shoes. Ugly heifer. The kid needs some help.

Growing up in the Angus business was the best thing that could have happened to me. Some people like my father claim it is the work in the below-zero temperatures during calving season that builds all the character. Others say that dealing with a temperamental show heifer for a year and a half will teach patience more than anybody could imagine. In my opinion, the time spent with the cattle make great memories, but the people stitched into those memories nurtured my personal growth.

I am privileged to have great mentors in my life. Their steady voice of reassurance and guiding hand mean the world to me. Family members, advisors, friends, and yes, maybe a short-tempered show heifer have given me the tools needed to be a mentor to others.

Nothing compares to meeting somebody, getting to know them and helping them towards success. I have only had a few opportunities to experience this feeling. This sensation is different than succeeding yourself. It is satisfying knowing that you helped someone



achieve a goal or grow as a person.

It all starts with hello. A connection can be found anywhere from the wash rack at a show or by the barbecue sandwiches at a fall production

sale, but please don't stop there. When you see them at a later time, ask them how they have been. See if they want to have lunch with you, or do they want to help you fit your heifer? The little things develop a relationship.

Building a friendship is huge, because it makes whatever you're doing together irrelevant and the people you spent the time with the most important. Who cares if the heifer's hair isn't "just right" before it goes into the ring? The only thing I'm going to remember 10 years from now

was when I spilled chili all over myself and my brother let me wear his wash pants the rest of the day to cover up the chili stains. Chili stains aside, trust builds the foundation of a mentor/protegé relationship.

A teacher of mine described what a good mentor and leader was in one sentence. "Good leaders and mentors create opportunities for others to be successful." Find the strengths in others and play to them. They will surprise you with what they are capable of.

Sometimes all it takes is a little push for someone to bust out of their shell and gain the confidence they deserve. We all needed a push at some point in our lives — take it from the 8-year-old in the beat-up tennis shoes with the ugly show heifer.

— by Alex Rogen



NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERMS UP IN 2016

ALEX ROGEN, South Dakota, **chairman**, alex.rogen@jacks.sdstate.edu

JAKE HEIMSOOTH, Missouri, **vice chairman**, jacob2626.JH@gmail.com

MICHAEL CROPP, Maryland, **communications director**, mscropp@ksu.edu

EVAN WOODBURY, Kansas, **Foundation director**, evanwoodbury16@ksu.edu

LAUREN GRIMES, Ohio, **leadership director**, lgrimes@onu.edu

KATLYN TUNSTILL, Arkansas, **membership director**, katy.tunstill@okstate.edu

TERMS UP IN 2017

KATELYN CORSENTINO, Louisiana, katelyn.corsentino@gmail.com

BRADEN HENRICKS, Oklahoma, bradenhenricks@gmail.com

GABRIELLE LEMENAGER, Illinois, gabiellelemenager@yahoo.com

TIM MARDESEN, Iowa, timothymardesen@yahoo.com

MACY PERRY, California, Macy.Perry@okstate.edu

REESE TUCKWILLER, West Virginia, ReeseT94@gmail.com

Sportsmanship – Around the Ring and Beyond

We have pressed through another year of events and conferences. As we are gearing up for another successful year of goals and dreams to achieve, we sometimes forget that the most important thing during these competitive events is sportsmanship!

Being a good sportsman means putting the other person or competitor first rather than ourselves. Have you ever shaken the judge's hand? Helped move the heifer in front of you? Said congrats to the champion winner? Wished good luck to the next person in the public speaking contest? All of these are thinking about the person behind or in front of you and their outcome.

There are many ways of going above and beyond to be a good sportsman. You can share valuable tack space with your neighbor. Another gesture would be to prepare and level the bedding for your friend that is arriving overnight with cattle,

or help to fit a leg for a beginner junior member. Inside the showing offers some opportunities, as well. You may need to gently encourage the heifer in front of you to keep moving. To be courteous and fair, try to stay in line so the judge can view all the animals. Finally, regardless of the outcome, remember to thank the judge and congratulate the winner.

In all of our competitive events, there are winners and losers. Always try to keep winning and losing in perspective because everyone has wins and losses at some time or another.



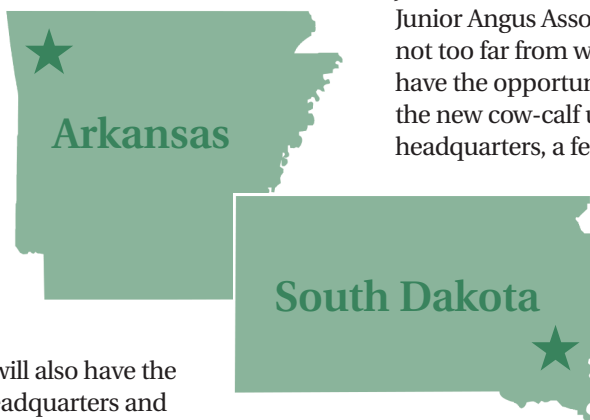
— by Jaclyn Clark

RAISING THE BAR

LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

What exciting news I have for y'all! I am proud to announce that we will once again be having two Raising the Bar conferences in the spring of 2016.

I am happy to reveal that the first one will be in not only my home state, but also my hometown, Fayetteville, Ark. Although still working out some details, I can tell you a little inside information on what we will be doing. Tyson is allowing us to tour some of their awesome facilities. We will also have the opportunity to tour Walmart headquarters and the University of Arkansas, as well. There are some



great Angus producers who will allow us to visit their farms and hear their story.

Later in the spring, we are also visiting the home of another junior board member. Alex Rogen is thrilled for the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) to be traveling somewhere not too far from where he grew up, Sioux Falls, S.D. We will have the opportunity to tour South Dakota State University and the new cow-calf unit they have. Also on the list is TransOva headquarters, a feedlot and some more Angus farms.

As you can see, we are planning some fun-filled weeks! We will have more information on the NJAA website for this event in the near future. If you have any questions about Raising the Bar, visit the NJAA website, www.njaa.info, or feel free to contact any of the junior board members.

— by Katy Tunstall

Thank You, Thank You

A hand-written letter is a priceless token of appreciation. Snail mail has become a thing of the past. Everyone now uses text messages, emails or phone calls. Let's be real, it's much easier and more efficient. There is no going to the store to pick up cards, envelopes or stamps. You don't have to wait in line or pick out a professional card. Everything electronic is delivered at the touch of a button.

Think about this, though, how exciting is it to walk to the mailbox and there is

something with your name on it? As a kid, I could not wait for the mail to come with hopes of having a package or postcard. These days, all I get in the mail is bills and the occasional letter from a friend back home. The greatest thing I have received, however, is a hand-written thank you.

A hand-written letter is a personal sign of respect and appreciation, which makes them so important. They take time and thought, which is why oftentimes they do not get written. However, that is part of what makes a thank-you letter so valuable. Many people believe that a

**"Eight little letters,
one little space,
tell you the reason
for the smile on my face.
I want you to know,
for all that you do
I sincerely appreciate,
love, and thank you"**

— Doe Zantamata

Match the New Green Coats



Braden Henricks, Oklahoma

"But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love."
— Psalm 33:18



Katelyn Corsentino, Louisiana

"Be yourself and never change it, be everything you ever wanted to be." — Unknown



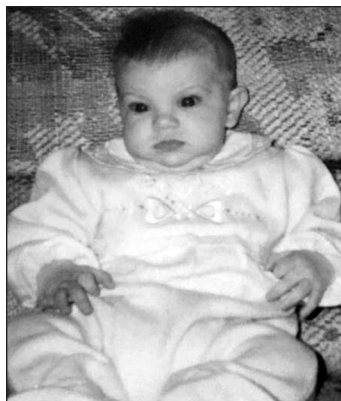
Gabrielle Lemenager, Illinois

"Enjoy the little things in life because one day you will look back and realize they were the big things." — Unknown



Macy Perry, California

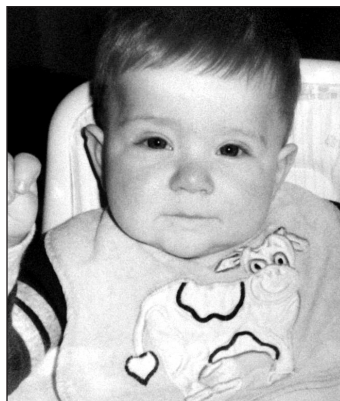
"Do not follow where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."
— Ralph Waldo Emerson



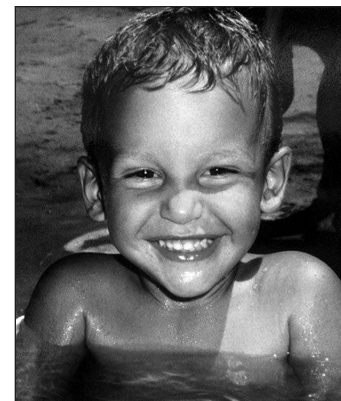
#1



#2



#3



#4

The key is at the bottom of page 10

Very Much

thank-you letter has to be lengthy and boring, but that is not the case.

There are casual and formal thank-you notes depending on the situation. A thank you to a family member or friend can be more personal and less “sugar coated.” Unfortunately, not all letters can be that simple. Some require length and a well-thought-out, organized format to show appreciation, such as a thank you in response to receiving scholarships or graduation cards. The time commitment is so minute in comparison to the impact it will make.

— by *Katelyn Corsentino*

Meet Your New Member to the Advisory Board

I would like to introduce Mary Greiman to the Advisory Board. Mary grew up in Lehigh, Iowa, a valley on the Des Moines river. She grew up with an Angus herd and showed an Angus heifer her first year in 4-H. However, the cows were sold after her father built a new veterinary office and she showed club calves from then on. She also showed horses growing up, starting at the age of seven. Mary showed Quarter Horses and Appaloosas, competing in halter, showmanship, pleasure, horsemanship, trail, English and reining.



Mary attended Iowa State University where she met her husband Ted and moved to Garner, Iowa. She was a stay-at-home farm mom taking care of their two sons, Kyle and Cole, until they were old enough to attend school. Then she worked part-time for five years at a local veterinary clinic grooming small animals. After that, Mary worked part-time as the 4-H Youth Coordinator in Hancock County. She then tried something different by working in a bank for a few years and now she works for the Iowa Cattlemen's Foundation.

While dating Ted, Mary got involved in the Iowa State Angus Auxiliary and instantly became hooked. Mary is an American Angus Auxiliary life member and was an officer from 2005 to 2008. She is the current chairperson of the *Gifts that Sizzle* Committee. She is also a life member of the Iowa Angus Auxiliary and served as an officer from 1989 to 1991. She is currently the scholarship chair and awards chair.

Both Mary and Ted are very involved in the Iowa Angus Association, as they were the junior advisors for 11 years. Currently, Mary and Ted are the co-chairs for the 2017 National Junior Angus Show in Des Moines, Iowa. About joining the Advisory Board, Mary says she is “really excited for this opportunity! The junior board members are a great group of kids and I am looking forward to working with them.”

As I welcome a new member, I also say goodbye to one of our current advisors. On behalf of the NJAA, I would like to thank Carrie Horsley for her devotion to the junior members for the past two years. I wish Carrie the best in her next adventure.

— by *Macy Perry*



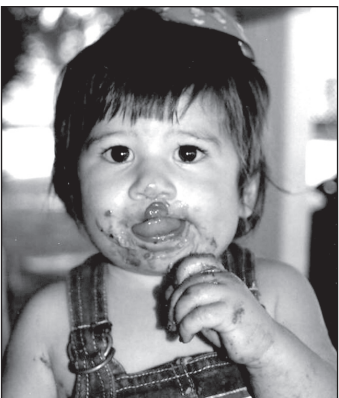
Reese Tuckwiller, West Virginia

“Work hard in silence, and let your success make all the noise.” — *Unknown*



Tim Mardesen, Iowa

“You miss every shot that you do not take.” — *Wayne Gretzky*



#5



#6

— by *Jake Heimsoth*

2015 LEAD Recap

After surviving one of the hottest National Junior Angus Shows on record, more than 150 junior Angus enthusiasts made their way to the Pacific Northwest to wind down from a whirlwind of a summer and to take on Seattle for our annual Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference. Participants were actively engaged in learning about Washington agriculture and the rich history of Pike Place Market, and met fellow juniors from all across the country. As each LEAD comes and goes, we are amazed by the quality juniors we are fortunate enough to call our own. We love to hear back from our participants, so we decided to interview one of our newest attendees, **Ms. Abigail Smoot**.

How old are you, and where are you from?

I am 14, and I am from Campbellsville, Ky.

Have you ever been to LEAD before this year?

No, this was my first year I was able to go.

What made you decide to attend LEAD in Seattle this year?

I decided to go to LEAD because my brother went for the first time when it was in Philadelphia and he loved it, so I knew I would love it as well. Also, other older juniors told me I need to attend and that it was a great experience.

What was your favorite part of LEAD?

My favorite part of LEAD was meeting all of the other juniors and making friendships with them, but I also love sightseeing. Going to the space needle was really cool, too.



Abigail Smoot (back row, left) is shown with the Kentucky state group at the 2015 LEAD conference held recently in Seattle, Wash.

If you had to name your favorite thing you took home from LEAD, what would that be?

The memories!

What speakers did you enjoy the most, and why?

I enjoyed listening to Josh Shipp because although he was a motivational speaker, he also joked with us and was very funny. He did a great job keeping us entertained and giving us good advice for all the obstacles we will go through ... and a goat!

Do you have any future ideas for activities at the conference?

I think LEAD should be longer. Instead of being three days, I think it should be five days.



PHOTOS (INCLUDING COVER) BY NICOLE LANE

LEAD offers many opportunities to meet new people through games and activities.

Snapshots from LEAD



If someone were to ask you why he or she should go to LEAD, how would you reply?

I would first say that LEAD is an overall great experience, from learning about the agriculture there to just exploring the city that it's in. Plus you get to meet a lot of new friends! Then I would explain how LEAD made me step out of my comfort zone a little. Some people are scared to go because they do not know anybody, but I went barely knowing anybody and came back knowing a lot of people.

Would you attend LEAD again?

Of course I will. I plan to attend LEAD till I age out!

—by *Lauren Grimes*



Looking Back on 35 Years

Each year, NJAA members travel to various shows and conferences with many goals. At shows, we want to win that competitive class with our favorite heifer, expand our fitting skills, and meet new breeders and exhibitors. At conferences, we hope to get inspiration from the famous keynote speaker, make memories with our friends, and experience a part of the country we have maybe never seen. However, very seldom do current members stop to think about the impact they are making in the association and to other members, both younger and older. In fact, many members never even realize that the impact they make continues to influence the people around them for many years.

This year is an important milestone for the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB). 2015 marks the 35th year that the National Junior Angus Board has been in existence. Looking back on the list of incredible leaders that have worn a green jacket over the past 35 years is incredible. It is amazing to think that the prestige and honor of wearing the iconic green jacket started with juniors that were around the barn making an impact on the people around them without even realizing it. Through the past 35 years, the NJAA has come a long way. There have been many changes and additions made through various contests, more exhibition opportunities were made available, and the NJAA even created and implemented the leadership conference Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD).

Regardless if you are a first- or last-year member, always remember that you are making an impact on the ones around you with the things you do and say. Keep in mind that the opportunity to impact someone comes around many times a day, and we unfortunately sometimes let those small moments pass. Those small moments truly define us, and one day many readers will have the opportunity to make an impact on juniors where the stage is large, just like the many green jackets that have helped shape the NJAA's history.

— by Gabrielle Lemenager



The inaugural National Junior Angus Board included (front row, from left) Julie McMahon, Arkansas; Tracy Crose, California; Angie Hunt, Indiana; Tracey Chapman, Georgia; Jodie Wallace, West Virginia; Sharon Diuble, Michigan; (back row, from left) Jerry Lipsey, past director of junior activities; George McDonald, Tennessee; Mark Wyble, Louisiana; Dale Rains, Pennsylvania; Brad Staley, Iowa; Bruce Kroeker, Kansas; and John Kiesewetter, Illinois.

35 years of NJAB directors

2014-2016

Michael Cropp, Maryland
Lauren Grimes, Ohio
Jacob Heimsoth, Missouri
Alex Rogen, South Dakota
Katlyn Tunstill, Arkansas
Evan Woodbury, Kansas

2013-2015

Will Fiske, Virginia
Shane Kerner, Idaho
Jessica Radcliffe, Wisconsin
Lindsay Upperman,
Pennsylvania
Cory Watt, South Carolina
Tylee Jo Williams, Texas

2012-2014

Jacy Alsup, Arkansas
Maggie Jasper, Kentucky
Daniel McFarland, Louisiana
Luke Nord, Minnesota
Jena Wagner, Montana
Paige Wallace, Missouri

2011-2013

Megan Ahearn, Texas
Meghan Blythe, Kansas
Jennifer Ewing, Illinois
Kelli Retallick, Wisconsin
JanLee Rowlett, Tennessee
Sally Yon, South Carolina

2010-2012

Austin Brandt, Iowa
Shane Clary, Virginia
Lindsey Grimes, Ohio
Garrett Knebel, Indiana
Alisha Nord, Minnesota
Clay Williams, Georgia

2009-2011

Britney Creamer, Colorado
Danielle Foster, Michigan
Clinton Laflin, Kansas
Cody Smith, Missouri
Jennifer Ann Smith, Texas
Jaclyn Upperman,
Pennsylvania

2008-2010

Ashlyn Carter, Indiana
Christopher Cassady, Illinois
Robert Myers, Oregon
Andrew Rogen, South Dakota
Kirbe Schnoor, California
Lindsay Waugh, Minnesota

2007-2009

Ann Blumer, South Carolina
Brandon Creamer, Colorado

Trey Davis, Georgia
Bridget Driscoll, Iowa
Walt Stinson, Tennessee
Mallory Trosper, Missouri

2006-2008

Justin Brosey, Ohio
Joseph Epperly, Virginia
Andrew Foster, Michigan
Dana May, Wisconsin
Rebecca Tokach, North
Dakota
Kara Wilson, Indiana

2005-2007

Zebadiah Gray, Iowa
Kristen Oaks, Louisiana
Amanda Schnoor, California
Alex Tolbert, Georgia
Tracee Veenstra, Minnesota
Kindra Wood, Alabama

2004-2006

Curtis Bryant, Maryland
Casey Jentz, Wisconsin
Alicia Kramer, Illinois
Heath McPherson, North
Carolina
Renee Thelen, Michigan
Jake Tiedeman, Nebraska

2003-2005

Kyle Conley, Missouri
Tyler Grissom, Oklahoma
Jarrett Martin, Arkansas
Jeana Sankey, Kansas
Joanna Olson, Texas
Jennifer Ourso, Louisiana

2002-2004

Jennifer Beck, North Carolina
Cortney Collins, West
Virginia
Jamie Hower, Pennsylvania
Jamie King, Ohio
Trevor Kuipers, Illinois
Amy Wolfrey, Maryland

2001-2003

Mercedes Danekas,
California
Brian Howell, Indiana
John McCurry, Kansas
Lana Myers, Louisiana
Lacey Robinson, Missouri
Brandon Walker, Georgia

2000-2002

Brittney Burns, Illinois
Heath Johnson, Mississippi
Tom Patterson, Montana

of History



Key to Communication

I have found that communication is, without a doubt, one of the most important strengths. Good communication is a vital skill to develop as a leader, and, in my opinion, is the most important element for a successful leader. Good communicators develop the ability to explain, describe, write and speak in public. When new innovative ideas arise during meetings, it is critical that communicators don't automatically shut them down, but bring them to life.

Here are some good rules of thumb to follow.

- If giving a speech, try to take the topic and create images, examples and metaphors in order for the audience to relate.
- Always keep in mind that most people have a short attention span.
- When speaking to groups, presenting ideas, giving speeches or running a meeting, try to implement phrases and words that draw the listener in. Often they are comical jokes or powerful phrases.
- Sometimes it isn't what people say that the audience remembers, but what was done to create a memorable presentation is the link between the information and the person presenting it.
- When talking to a group of people, what you say is important; however, it is equally important to incorporate some out-of-the-box ideas that help separate the speech and make it memorable.
- The best communicators inspire others to act on the topics or ideas being presented.

— by Michael Cropp

Jessica Sawyer, Nebraska
Ryan Sweeney, Michigan
Christy Walther, Virginia

1999-2001

Brandon Douglas, Arkansas
Miranda Grissom,
Oklahoma

Jamie Meyer, Kansas
Sy Olson, Texas
Allison Porter, Georgia
Sonya Smith, Tennessee

1998-2000

Julie Dameron, Illinois
John Melton, Virginia
Melissa Pickrell, Kentucky
Garrett Pohlman, Nebraska
Julie Scarlett, North
Carolina

Lindsey Trosper, Missouri

1997-1999

Diana Covell, Maryland
Amy Dyar, Alabama
J.W. McCurry, Kansas
Rhonda Nida, Oklahoma
Hutch Porter, Georgia
Janelle Sommers, Indiana

1996-1998

Leigh Ann Campbell,
Kentucky
Andrew Donnell, Tennessee
Jarrod Gillig, Missouri
Moriah Olson, Texas
Brent Scarlett, North
Carolina
Dru Uden, Nebraska

1995-1997

Shantelle Andrews,
California
Suzanne Berry, Alabama
John Dickinson, Illinois
Monica Feeser, Maryland
Jennifer Hawkins, Michigan
Bob Stevenson, Montana

1994-1996

Melissa Bush, South
Dakota
Wynn Dalton, Virginia
Will Grote, Texas
Matt Perrier, Kansas
Scott Pohlman, Nebraska
Jill Sommers, Indiana

1993-1995

Brian Brockman, Missouri
William Donnell, Tennessee

Sarah Lynn Hill, Ohio
Heather Kalino, California
Alan Miller, Illinois
Chad Rotenberger, North
Dakota

1992-1994

Greg Bobo, Texas
Kimberly Bowen, Arkansas
Jennifer Carrico, Iowa
Ashley Davis, Kentucky
Shandell Kinnett, Oklahoma
Leslie Krehbiel, Kansas

1991-1993

Julia Brown, Indiana
Jeff Dameron, Illinois
Lori Franklin, Colorado
Dianne McGiveron,
Wisconsin
Cara Pascalar, Oregon
Tamra Vollmer, North Dakota

1990-1992

Bryan Bouldin, Missouri
Kellie Coonrad, Washington
Kyla Hall, Nebraska
Tim Jeffries, Kentucky
Deirdre Lawson, Oklahoma
Cheremie Viator, Louisiana

1989-1991

Lori Cash, Pennsylvania
Lisa Hawkins, Michigan
Bill Hollis, Illinois
Anne Jones, Virginia
Susan Patton, Indiana
Billy Reeder, Tennessee

1988-1990

John Bell, Kentucky
Joe Davis, Mississippi
Kurt Greiman, Iowa
Leslie Morelock, Arkansas
Mark Moxley, Maryland
John Toledo, California

1987-1989

Christine Simmons,
Michigan
Cheryl Hutchins, Ohio
Garth Gardiner, Kansas
Steve Patton, Indiana
Kelli Meged, Montana
KayDee Catlin, Washington

1986-1988

Chad Cash, Pennsylvania
Russell Coon, Missouri
Kelli Crossland, Arkansas
Christy Dameron, Illinois

Jim Jasper, Kentucky
Kurt Olson, Iowa

1985-1987

Nick Brost, Indiana
Julie Coonrad, Washington
Cindy Houck, Kansas
Richard Jenkins, Tennessee
Beth McDonald, Alabama
Cliff Simmons, Michigan

1984-1986

Kenley Conner, Kentucky
Alan Kapp, Missouri
Susan McMahan, Arkansas
Jay Pfeiffer, Oklahoma
Mary Ellen Shaw, Wisconsin
Doug Stevenson, Montana

1983-1985

Leroy Billman, Ohio
Lisa Bohlen, Michigan
Gayle Hunt, Indiana
Bruce Kiesewetter, Illinois
Malcolm Landry, Louisiana
Jeff Neumeyer, Idaho

1982-1984

Jud Baldrige, Nebraska
Rick Blanchard, California
Diane Krause, Pennsylvania
Mark Kreul, Wisconsin
Guy Laflin, Kansas
Cary Ann Smith, Kentucky

1981-1983

Barb Baylor, Illinois
Eddie Donahoe, Mississippi
Vic Grissom, Oklahoma
Sheryl Knop, Iowa
Jean Neumeyer, Idaho
Karen Utrecht, Ohio

1980-1982

Tracy Crose, California
Sharon Diuble, Michigan
Angie Hunt, Indiana
Bruce Kroeker, Kansas
Julie McMahan, Arkansas
Jodie Wallace, West Virginia

1980-1981

Tracy Chapman, Georgia
John Kiesewetter, Illinois
George McDonald,
Tennessee
Dale Rains, Pennsylvania
Brad Staley, Iowa
Mark Wyble, Louisiana

Source: www.njaa.info

2016 Angus Foundation Heifer Package

The Angus Foundation has had yet another astounding year, kicking it off with the 2015 Angus Foundation Heifer Package. 44 Ruby 3839, donated by 44 Farms of Cameron, Texas, was purchased by Herbster Angus Farms of Falls City, Neb., for \$175,000. The Foundation truly thanks all of the supporters that have allowed us to have such a great year, and I'm sure that trend will continue into 2016!

To kick off 2016 there will once again be the Angus Foundation Heifer Package sold at the National Western Stock Show in Denver on Wed., Jan. 13 at 3:30 p.m. This year, Schaff Angus Valley of Saint Anthony, N.D., has generously donated SAV Emblynette 5368, an SAV Harvester 0338 daughter out of a SAV 8180 Traveler 004 dam. With the sale of this heifer, the Foundation will be able to continue supporting their three main focus areas of youth, education and research.

The National Junior Angus Association and National Junior Angus Board would like to send great thanks to everyone involved with the Angus Foundation for supporting all of our events throughout the year. We know it would not be possible without you! We also can't forget several dedicated individuals from the Angus Foundation, Mr. Milford Jenkins and Mrs. Kris Sticken for all their endless focus, time and support towards



SAV Emblynette 5368 with her dam at 30 days of age.

ensuring the future success of this great organization and breed. Finally, the junior board would also like to thank Ms. Carrie Horsley for everything she has done for the Foundation and our juniors. We wish her well in all her future endeavors!

— by *Evan Woodbury*

West Virginia Spotlight



It's always so much fun getting reacquainted with friends at shows and NJAA events.

Obviously catching up is important, but do you ever think about what other state associations are up to?

I have the honor of being able to shine some light on my very own association: the West Virginia Junior Angus Association.

As of late, we have been very busy.

This June, West Virginia hosted the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show. All the juniors were vigorously planning to make sure everything would be perfect. If you weren't able to attend, you missed out on all the action from the hilarious donkey races to all the youngsters running around in the greased-pig contest. Now this isn't the first time we've hosted such an event. The Eastern Regional Angus Show has been hosted by West Virginia in 1996, 2003, 2008 and now 2015.

Also West Virginia enjoys hosting our winter mini-LEAD at the gorgeous Canaan Valley Ski Resort. This event offers Angus workshops, along with ice skating, and, of course, skiing.

In comparison to some, we are a small group. Now, we certainly don't fall short of being extremely competitive and involved both on the state and national level. Without a doubt, none of this would be possible without help from our wonderful advisor, Krista Hayes. Our association is very fortunate to have had a lifelong mentor and advisor such as Mida Peterson, who has helped the juniors for more than 40 years.

I can't forget to mention the numerous parents that help keep the ball rolling year after year. I'm really excited because in addition to an older group of juniors involved within the association, there is a far greater number of young juniors coming on board. Knowing that my junior days are coming to an end, I am thrilled with the quality of these younger juniors coming up through the ranks.

I think that these ambitious young juniors have a bright future in front of them both in and out of the showing. I certainly can't wait to see what our state can accomplish in the future.

— by *Reese Tuckwiller*

Spot the Differences



— by Tim Mardesen

Key:

1. The baby calf in the background picture is missing. | 2. Jake's bow tie is missing. | 3. Alex has a name tag. | 4. Reese's name tag is missing. | 5. Lauren's reflection off the table is gone. | 6. The Angus poster in the top of the picture.

Believe in Yourself

Jim Valvano once said, “My father gave me the greatest gift anyone could give another person; he believed in me.” Going through life, we are faced with many obstacles that get in the way of the path that we have planned for ourselves. However, what if the plans we have made for our own lives aren't a part of the path that God has intended for us to walk down?

Growing up, many of us knew exactly what we were going to do with our lives. We all wanted to be teachers, doctors, firemen, policemen, or for some of us who thought outside of the box, dinosaurs. As we grew older, though, we began to realize that what we aspired to be as kids would eventually change, and we had no clue what we wanted to do with our lives.

For many of us, it wasn't just about not knowing what to do with our lives, it was about not knowing what to do in the many events that took place in our lives as well. This is when most of us have struggled to believe in ourselves. We got so down and out about the things going on around us that we forgot to have faith and believe in all of our decisions.

You see, it's not just about believing in ourselves, though; it's about believing in others as well. It's so easy to get caught up in our everyday lives and think to ourselves, “There's no way I can do that.” However, it is by believing in others and seeing them succeed that gives us faith and hope to believe we can achieve whatever task we set our minds to.

Jim Valvano believed in himself, because his father believed in him. Let's aspire to do the same and believe in each other. Some of Valvano's last and most famous words were, “Don't give up. Don't ever give up.”

— by Braden Henricks

Important Dates and Deadlines for Juniors

JANUARY 2016

- 14 National Western Stock Show Junior Heifer Show, Denver, Colo.

FEBRUARY 2016

- 1 Ownership and entry deadline for the Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC) Show
 1 Spring *Directions* article deadline
 5 Application deadline for the Events and Education summer internship
 TBA Ownership & Entry deadline for the Western Regional Junior Angus Show

MARCH 2016

- 1 Deadline for Honorary Angus Foundation and Advisor of the Year nominations
 11-13 MAJAC Show, Harrisonburg, Va.

APRIL 2016

- 1-3 Western Regional, Reno, Nev.
 15 Ownership and entry deadline for the Atlantic National Junior Angus Show

MAY 2016

- 1 Deadline for Gold Award applications
 1 Outstanding Leadership Award applications due
 1 Ownership & Entry deadline Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show
 1 Certified Angus Beef LLC/NJAA scholarship applications due
 1 Angus Foundation scholarship applications due
 15 Ownership & Entry deadline Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show
 15 Ownership & Entry deadline National Junior Angus Show
 15 Entry deadline for NJAA Creative Writing, NJAA/

Angus Journal Photography and NJAA Graphic Design Contests

- 15 Entry & Recipe deadline for All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off
 25 Deadline for NJAA Public Speaking Contest speech outlines
 25 Deadline for Career Development Résumés
 26-29 Atlantic National Junior Angus Show, Timonium, Md.
 TBA Ownership deadline American Angus Breeders' Futurity Junior Angus Show

JUNE 2016

- 1 NJAA Board Candidate information due
 1 Deadline for submitting names of state delegates and showmanship contestants for NJAB elections
 15 LEAD registrations due (early registration deadline)

- 17-19 Eastern Regional, Harrisburg, Pa.
 TBA Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Oregon
 TBA The American Breeders' Futurity Junior Preview Show, Louisville, Ky.

JULY 2016

- 3-9 National Junior Angus Show, Grand Island, Neb.

AUGUST 2016

- 1 Fall *Directions* article deadline
 4-7 LEAD Conference, Phoenix, Ariz.

