

# DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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Fall 2019



NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

## *Staying Up to Date with the NJAA*

There are some exciting things happening with the Board of Directors inside the boardroom of the National Junior Angus Association. We, as a twelve, have been hard at work since we became a team at the 2019 National Junior Angus Show in Louisville, Ky., this past July. We are so excited and so passionate for this breed and junior association.

In a world where staying in the know happens at your fingertips, be sure to follow our social media outlets to stay informed on all things Angus and National Junior Angus Association!

 Facebook @jrangusassoc

 Instagram @jrangusassoc

 Twitter @JrAngusAssoc

 Snapchat @NJAAsnap

The junior board takes over the Snapchat account at every show and conference we put on, as well as various takeovers throughout the year including college

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# Chairman's Perspective

## The Future of an Industry

**I**n a world of change and fast-paced living, I couldn't think of an industry more apt to keep up than the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). We live in the fast lane and never look back. Within the NJAA we never stop moving forward and continue to strive for the best possible outcome. As junior members, we are presented countless opportunities to take hold of our future and reach for our utmost potential.



**Tyler Bush**

The NJAA is a junior association with many members, and it takes a lot of turning parts to make it all go around. Often we forget about those who help us get to the next level whether that be winning a class, raising a herd bull, graduating college or landing your dream job. There is always a group of people behind you supporting your every move in the right direction.

I grew up with a strong background in the agriculture and livestock industries. I'm currently the sixth generation on my family farm, and I look forward to continuing the rich history of Angus cattle that is embedded in our operation. With never-ending support, I started to find success within things I loved at a young age. I grew older with the same support, but learned I need to find that passion and drive within my own heart to chase success.

I've always been a sucker for inspiring and meaningful quotes, but early in 2015 I discovered the quote that I'd live my daily life by. The quote goes like this, "Be phenomenal or be forgotten." To some this may come across in the wrong way, but the way I interpret it is "be phenomenal" in your effort and how you go about your dreams. You will come across failure, but with failure comes success.

If you work hard, learn lessons and stay humble, I can guarantee those efforts will not "be forgotten," and you will be better and even more driven moving forward. If you know you've worked your hardest and have given it your all, you can never be dissatisfied with the result. You can only learn from it and work towards a greater goal.

With my time on the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB), I've learned how to chase my dreams, become a better leader and overcome the challenges I'll face. I know moving to the next phase of life can be intimidating and comes with a lot of responsibility, but find that determination to be better than you were yesterday. I would like to challenge you to find your passion, chase your dreams, and become the leader and friend you know you've needed in the past. Look past the present and focus on the future. Invest yourself in what this junior association and life has to offer you. Good luck!

— Tyler Bush, chairman

## Scholarships

Visit the Angus Foundation website at [www.angusfoundation.org](http://www.angusfoundation.org) for more information about scholarships offered for both undergraduate and graduate students. Note the **May 1** deadline!

### NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### TERMS UP IN 2020

**TYLER BUSH, S.D., chairman**, [tyler.bushangus@gmail.com](mailto:tyler.bushangus@gmail.com)  
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**CAROLINE COWLES, Ky., communications director**, [caroline.cowles@okstate.edu](mailto:caroline.cowles@okstate.edu)  
**GRADY DICKERSON, Kan., leadership director**, [grady.dickerson04@gmail.com](mailto:grady.dickerson04@gmail.com)  
**DYLAN DENNY, Texas, Foundation director**, [dylاندenny12@yahoo.com](mailto:dylاندenny12@yahoo.com)  
**KEEGAN CASSADY, Ill., membership director**, [keegan.cassady16@gmail.com](mailto:keegan.cassady16@gmail.com)

#### TERMS UP IN 2021

**MEGAN PELAN, Md.**, [mp4091@comcast.net](mailto:mp4091@comcast.net)  
**NICK POHLMAN, Ark.**, [napohlma@uark.edu](mailto:napohlma@uark.edu)  
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**JUSTIN WOOD, N.C.**, [justwood19@gmail.com](mailto:justwood19@gmail.com)

Continued from front cover ...

campus tours, farm tours and more. NJAA Instagram and Facebook have a variety of content posted to it from spotlighting a junior member, sharing an inspirational quote, or upcoming events and deadlines. The NJAA's Twitter account retweets a lot of content from the American Angus Association, just to keep the public informed on all things Angus.

Ten years ago, the NJAA released the logo we all know today. During the last eight months, the logo has been under construction with thorough thought and consideration. All of us on the junior board are super excited for everyone to see what we have worked so hard on. So, without further ado, introducing the new National Junior Angus Association's logo!

— *Caroline Cowles, communications director*

## New Tools for Genetic Improvement

Last summer, new and exciting tools for genetic improvement were released by the American Angus Association. Angus Genetics Inc (AGI) developed new dollar value indexes (\$Values) for selection of Angus cattle. While genetics may not be as big of a priority for juniors as it is for commercial cattlemen, these new additions can benefit everyone in their cattle prioritization.

Kelli Retallick, genetic service director for AGI, says, "The American Angus Association's goal is to provide the members it serves with the best, most up-to-date tools and technology to drive the breed forward to continue to gain market share."

She explains how the indexes can help Angus breeders: "All of these \$Values are built with the commercial industry in mind. Each one is built around an underlying breeding goal that affects profitability in certain segments of the industry. To be successful in using these tools, a commercial producer must first set the goal of their operation; second, analyze

the strengths and weaknesses of their herd; and third, use the \$Value that best fits their operation."

It is with these tools that junior breeders can take hold of their cattle herd in and outside of the show ring. They can work to make their cattle more intriguing to potential customers.

"Finding ways to select for profitable genetics can be limited if producers are unable to find the right balancing act among different traits. This is where \$Values, or economic selection indexes, come in to play. \$Values are designed to support producers in choosing the most profitable animals for their operations by properly weighting these traits [expected progeny differences (EPDs)] that affect profit based on the role they play in generating revenue or expense," Retallick says.

The commercial side of the industry is what benefits the



**Kelli Retallick,**  
genetic service director for AGI

most from the new \$Values. They not only aid commercial breeders in selecting new herd bulls, but also support members in creating seedstock to further meet their commercial customer's needs.

For example, if a commercial producer raises their own replacement heifers

and sells his or her calf crop at weaning time as feeder calves, then using maternal weaned calf value (\$M) or a combination of \$M and weaned calf value (\$W) is a better choice as those \$Values are built with that particular breeding goal in mind. Before you try to manage your herd, though, you need a plan on which to build your program. Then use that plan to plug in genetics that will play a part in your herd.

These new tools brought forth by the Association and AGI are definitely something all members young and old need to look into to build their future, as well as the Angus breed as a whole.

— *Justin Wood, director*



## Angus Impact

Giving to others is one of the best ways to fulfill yourself. The NJAA has hosted hundreds of community service projects throughout the years at shows, conferences and events. Thousands of juniors have positively affected communities across the country with their donations year after year. Now, Angus juniors have the opportunity to make an impact in their community all year long! Angus Impact is a year-round community service initiative for Angus juniors to serve throughout the year.

This year the objective of Angus Impact will be to combat food insecurity. Throughout the year, there will be opportunities to drop off non-perishable food items at Angus events. We also encourage juniors to collect and donate throughout the year and keep receipts to record your donations. Not only will

this be positively affecting the community in small amounts throughout the year, but this will also be a competition to see which state donates the most items either at drop-off locations or their local food pantries. While competing state by state, we will also be making a difference across the country.

Every year Angus Impact will focus on a specific cause and collect items throughout the year. As service-minded juniors, we hope that every year small donations will help local communities and create awareness for challenges faced across the country.

Keep an eye out for social media updates on leading states and drop-off locations on all of our various platforms. We cannot wait to see the impact Angus juniors can have!

— Keegan Cassidy, membership director



## Green Coats Coast to Coast

Offering to your state association: The Green Coats Cost to Coast Program (GCC2C)! Take advantage of an opportunity to build stronger relationships, rekindle old and make new friendships, create a chance to motivate and engage juniors, and work on preparing for the future. You can do all of this while having junior board directors in attendance at your state association events!

The NJAA, the American Angus Association, and the Angus Foundation strive to offer as many leadership and involving programs as possible. The GCC2C opportunity is a great way to bridge the gap between the national and state associations, while building new connections and making new friends!

The NJAB would love to be part of your future events! Board members can offer icebreakers, fun events and workshops to build relationships within your organization. Whether it be a state show, fundraiser or a workshop, the NJAB member would love to attend. This is one of our opportunities to connect more closely with juniors and help them expand their leadership potential.

If you are interested in participating in this program, contact the Events and Education Department. This event can be set up at a preview show, state show or meeting. Before the event takes place, the state association advisors will communicate with the NJAB member to see what activities would best fit the association and to make the most of this wonderful opportunity.

Did you know the state association is not fully responsible for the cost of having an NJAB director in attendance? The state hosting is only responsible for half of the expense!

Why wait for big events when you can have an NJAA board member present any time of the year! Building connections, making new friends, and improving leadership and communication skills are a big goal of the NJAB. We look forward to achieving that with all of you juniors!

— Daniel Rohrbaugh, director





**A**s we grow up and move through life, we look up to the people around us that have gone down the same path. Whether it be our parents, our older siblings or even a family friend, at one point or another we have all learned from someone older. From a very young age to our early twenties, there is a group of people that take over that role of sharing experience and knowledge with a new generation — teachers.

Teaching and learning are fundamental practices that have always been a part of humanity. Famous teachers like Socrates, Aristotle and Confucius taught the world about philosophy over two thousand years ago, and paved the way for the methods of teaching we use today. There are now more than three million teachers in the United States.

Modern teachers in the United States now have many options for specialization, but two options have become vastly prevalent — secondary and elementary education. Secondary education, meaning junior high and high school, is subject specific such as science, math, English or even agriculture. Many juniors in the NJAA have thought about future careers in agriculture. A career in agriculture education is a great way to influence a new generation while maintaining a diverse knowledge in the agriculture industry. Teachers of other subjects can continue to maintain a presence on the cattle scene with free weekends and summers too.

Todd Whitaker once said, “The best thing about being a teacher is that it matters. The hardest thing about being a teacher is that it matters every day.”

Teachers have one of the most influential jobs in the entire world. While it is true that a teacher has to reach certain standards set by the Department of Education, it is often the case that teachers give their students a lot more than what the powerhouse of a cell is (it’s the mitochondria).

Despite the influence that teachers have on youth and society, there is a shortage of teachers to fill positions nationally and the shortage only seems to be getting worse. Most four-year institutions and community colleges now have more than 80% placement for students who graduate and pursue a career in education, just to try and keep up with the growing need for educators. So, if you are looking for a job that has a rich history, is never boring, and has ample career opportunities, education is a path that you should look into.

— *Grady Dickerson, leadership director*



# Meet the New Six



*Megan Pelan*

**College attending and major:**  
Kansas State University —  
Animal science, production and  
management  
**Nickname:** Meg  
**Who is your role model?** Tyler  
Donnelly for kickstarting this  
passion of mine.  
**One meal for the rest of your life:**  
Mac and cheese  
**One word to describe you:** Driven



*Nicholas Pohlman*

**College attending and major:**  
University of Arkansas —  
Biochemistry and animal science  
**Nickname:** Nick  
**Who is your role model?** My older  
brother Will and Cory Watt  
**One meal for the rest of your life:**  
Mac and cheese  
**One word to describe you:**  
Devoted



*Daniel Rohrbaugh*

**College attending and major:**  
Kansas State University —  
Agribusiness with a minor in  
animal sciences and industry  
**Nickname:** D  
**Who is your role model?** Scott  
Buchanan  
**One meal for the rest of your life:**  
Hands down, tacos  
**One word to describe you:**  
Energetic

## Foundation Funds

Established in 1980, the Angus Foundation is an entity of the American Angus Association. The Angus Foundation focuses on helping Angus youth become strong leaders and allowing Angus youth to pursue higher education through their three main goals of youth, education and research. As the NJAB Foundation director, I am looking forward to working

closely with Director of Development Mr. Rod Schoenbine this year. I hope to help further make the Angus Foundation the best it can be so that it can continue to support Angus youth.

One thing that I would like to touch on is unrestricted funds. Unrestricted funds are funds that the Foundation can control where they are allocated.



### *Reagan Skow*

**College attending and major:**

Oklahoma State University –  
Agricultural communications  
with a minor in food science

**Nickname:** Skow Wow and Regs

**Who is your role model?** My mom

**One meal for the rest of your life:**

Prime rib

**One word to describe you:** Spunky



### *Kelsey Verjaska*

**College attending and major:**

Oklahoma State University —  
Agricultural communications and  
agribusiness dual major

**Nickname:** Kels

**Who is your role model?** My

parents

**One meal for the rest of your life:**

Spaghetti and Caesar salad

**One word to describe you:**

Communicator



### *Justin Wood*

**College attending and major:**

Hutchinson Community College  
— Agricultural business

**Nickname:** J-Dawg

**Who is your role model?** My

Granddaddy because of all he does  
for me.

**One meal for the rest of your life:**

Fried chicken

**One word to describe you:**

Outgoing or loyal

— *Regan Skow, director*

They help put on events like Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) and Raising the Bar conferences, while being able to help cover scholarships and other Foundation events. The majority of funds that the Foundation has is restricted, which is money in the form of endowment funds and trusts that are used for what the person donating the money wants

it to be used for. The majority of those are recurring scholarships. While these are great and help Angus youth reach higher education, the Foundation always needs unrestricted funds to continue to accomplish its main goals of youth, education and research.

— *Dylan Denny, Foundation director*



# Get Involved with the NJAA: Question and Answer with Juniors

The NJAA has given opportunities to juniors across the country to travel, expand their horizons in the industry, and make priceless memories and friendships. After interviewing a few juniors from various parts of the country, I found out what they look forward to every year, their favorite junior Angus event, and what their favorite memory of the association has been.

Here's what Stuart Lastovica, Salado Texas; Sydney Dodge, Pendleton, Ore.; and Chase Cotton, York, Neb., had to say.

*What is something you look forward to every year at junior nationals?*

**Lastovica:** It is always exciting to see everyone again and catch up with them. Exhibiting at a national level with the very best is one of the greatest experiences I have ever had.

**Dodge:** For me it was so exciting getting to see all of my friends and making new connections at junior nationals! Not only that, but I always take pride in my stock, and love the feeling of just being in the ring.

**Cotton:** Seeing all of my Angus friends is something I look forward to every year.



Stuart Lastovica (at the halter), Salado, Texas

*If you could pick one NJAA event to attend every year no matter the circumstances, which one would it be and why?*

**Lastovica:** I would definitely choose LEAD as my favorite Angus event every year. Learning new information about the Angus breed and seeing the importance of Angus in our world is something that is fascinating to me.

**Dodge:** I can easily say junior nationals! Being a part of the association has given me lots of opportunities at nationals. It's so fun to participate in all of the activities. I enjoy getting



Sydney Dodge, Pendleton, Ore.

to see that many juniors and their families all in one place with their cattle!

**Cotton:** LEAD for sure.

*What has your favorite memory been so far in the association?*

**Lastovica:** My favorite memory has to be 2017 NJAS in Des Moines, Iowa, where I was honored with my first division win at a junior national. It was a great show where I met so many new people, and is something I will always remember.

**Dodge:** My favorite memory would have to be getting to be a voting delegate at the 2019 NJAS because I made lots of friends from across the country!

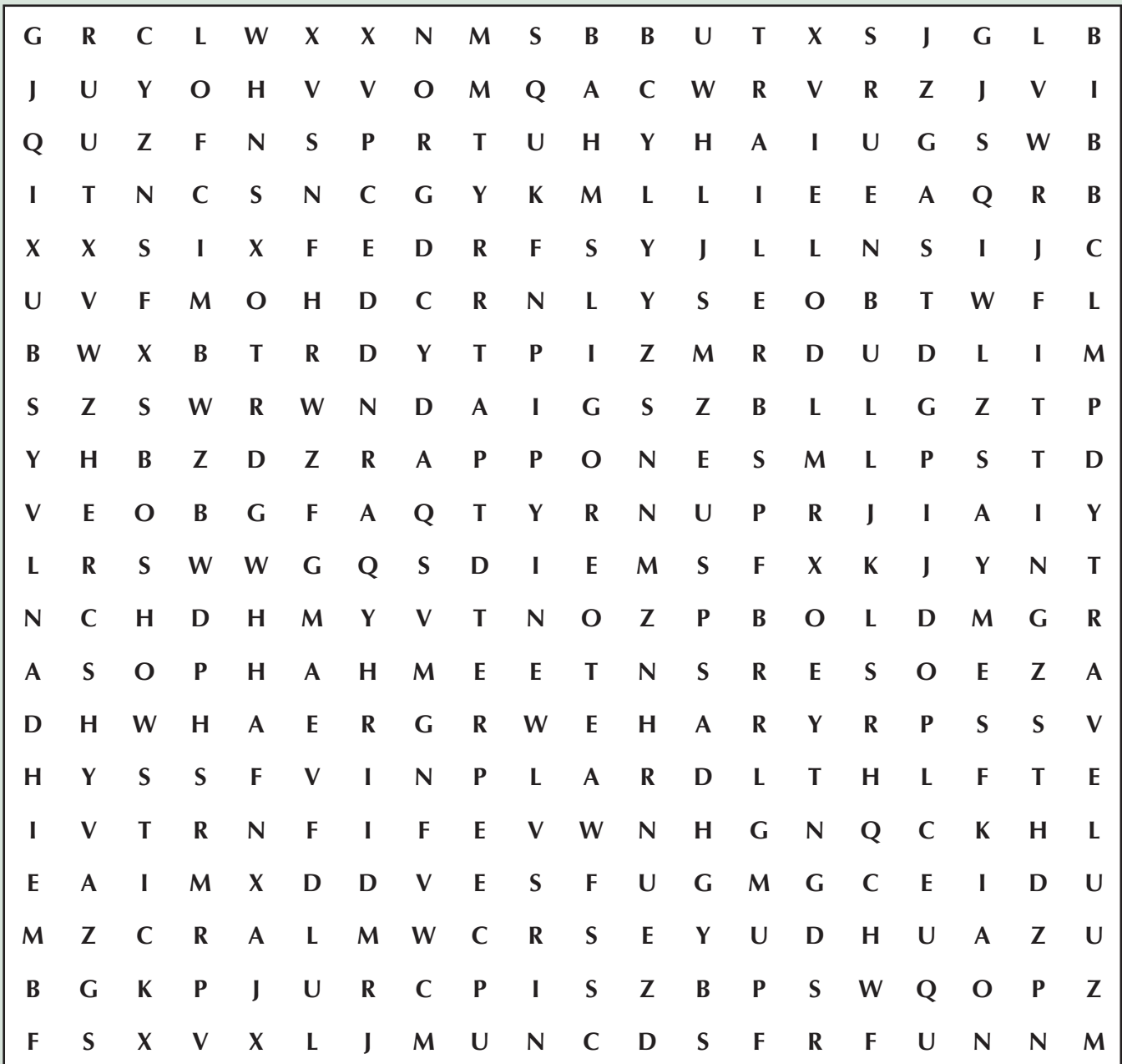
**Cotton:** Just being there at junior nationals, because there are great cattle and great families.

— by Kelsey Vejraska, director



Chase Cotton, York, Neb.





## NJAA Word Search

**junior national**  
**fitting**  
**Angus**  
**show harness**

**trailer**  
**steer**  
**connections**  
**heifer**

**fun**  
**show stick**  
**travel**  
**bull**

# Taking Advantage of Conferences

Attention Angus juniors! Are you looking for a way to get more involved, meet fellow juniors, travel to different states, get to know the NJAB better, and have the time of your life? Showing cattle or not, you have the opportunity to dive deeper into the National Junior Angus Association. The Angus Foundation, American Angus Association, NJAA and the NJAB aim to strengthen the personal skills of each and every junior member. By attending the Angus junior conferences — LEAD, Raising the Bar and STAR — you can meet other Angus juniors and strengthen your leadership skills. Each conference is hosted throughout the year and at different locations every year, creating convenience to attend one, two or all three!

State Training and Angus Retreat (STAR) is a three-day conference hosted at the American Angus Association in March. This conference was created to help state officers strengthen their leadership and communication skills. New this year, the conference will be open to all Angus juniors to attend the

conference in St. Joseph, Mo. During the three days spent at the Association, juniors will attend different seminars with Angus employees, learn through trainings and tour the Association. STAR is a great opportunity to become a better leader and strengthen personal skills for the future.

The Raising the Bar conference is also a three-day conference open to all Angus juniors, hosted in April at a land-grant university. During these three days, juniors will tour the campus, learn more about the opportunities at the university, attend leadership workshops, and go on tours around the area at farms, ranches and popular attractions. Games and icebreakers will also be provided to rekindle old and create new friendships. Raising the Bar is the perfect opportunity to tour college campuses and learn more about the agricultural industry.

Last but not least, the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference is a four-day conference hosted in August at different locations every

year offered to juniors turning 14 the year of the conference. Through engaged workshops, icebreakers and tours, juniors have the ability to strengthen their leadership skills and create new connections with other junior Angus members. Don't forget about the LEAD scholarship awarded at junior nationals!

Attending these conferences is a great way to get involved, meet new people, and continue to grow professional development skills, all while having fun! Take advantage of all the opportunities the NJAA presents as the years of being a junior fly by!

— by Megan Pelan, director



# Big Changes Are Coming!



The Bronze and Silver Awards platform is going digital. No longer are the days where you have to download an application form off of the NJAA website, fill out a paper copy and mail it to the Association office. The new online platform allows you to complete everything online, and lets you fill in events and save them as they occur.

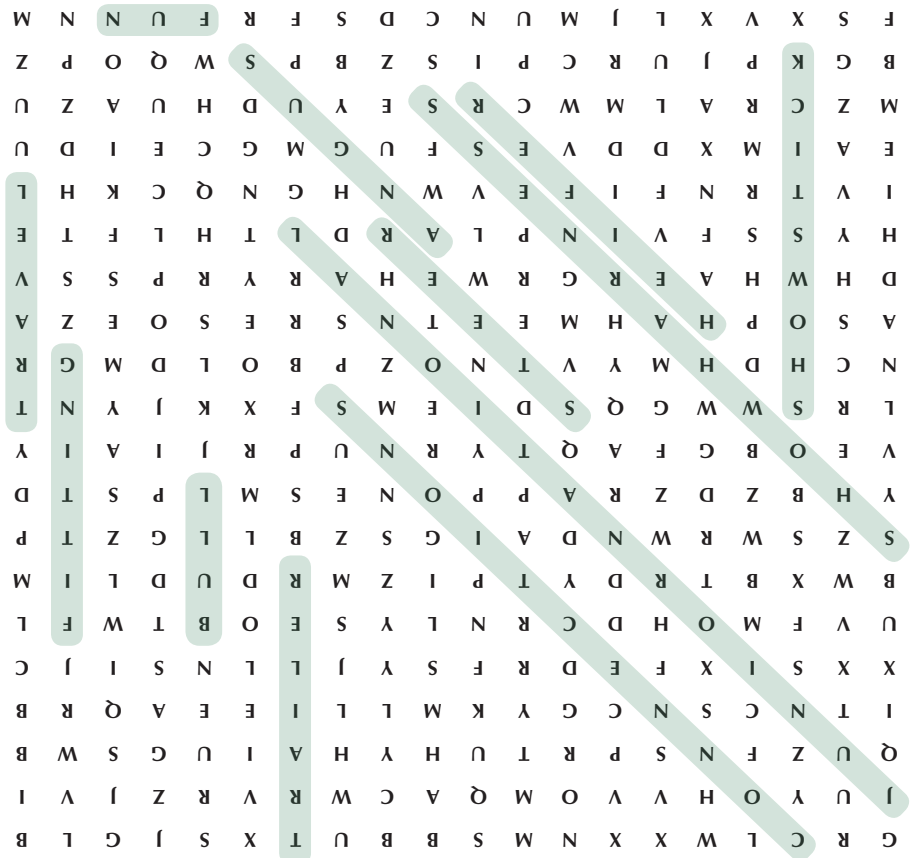
This new system will act as an online database, storing each and every event. I know when I was completing my Bronze and Silver applications this past year, I had a hard time remembering all of the different shows and events I had been part of. This new system allows the opportunity to add the information as it comes, so you don't have to remember how your heifer placed in a show or how you did in an educational contest two years ago. The portal will soon be released allowing for a shift towards paperless and user convenience.

— by *Nicholas Pohlman, director*

## AAA Login Online Contest Portal

Signing up for contests is now easier than ever through AAA Login. If you don't have an account, get one today!

Key to NJAA Word Search on page 9





# DIRECTIONS

NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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St. Joseph, MO  
Permit No. 2017

## Important Dates and Deadlines for Juniors

### January 2020

15 National Western Stock Show Jr. Heifer Show, Denver, Colo.

### February 2020

1 Ownership & entry deadline for the Mid-Atlantic Jr. Angus Classic (MAJAC) Show

1 Application deadline for the Events and Education summer internship

15 State Training and Angus Retreat (STAR) conference registration deadline

### March 2020

1 Deadline for Honorary Angus Foundation and Advisor of the Year nominations

1 Ownership & entry deadline for the Western Regional Jr. Angus Show

13-15 MAJAC Show, Harrisonburg, Va.

15 Raising the Bar registration deadline, Ft. Collins, Colo.

26-28 STAR conference, Saint Joseph, Mo.

### April 2020

9-11 Western Regional and Phenotype & Genotype Show, Reno, Nev.

16-19 Raising the Bar, Ft. Collins, Colo.

15 Ownership & entry deadline for the Atlantic National Jr. Show

### May 2020

1 Deadline for Gold Award applications

1 Outstanding Leadership award applications due

1 Ownership & entry deadline for American Angus Breeders' Futurity

1 Ownership & entry deadline for Eastern Regional Jr. Angus Show and Phenotype & Genotype Show

1 Ownership & entry deadline Northwest Regional Preview Jr. Angus Show

1 CAB/NJAA scholarship applications due

1 Angus Foundation scholarship applications due

15 Ownership & early entry deadline for National Jr. Angus Show (NJAS)

15 Entry deadline for NJAA Creative Writing, NJAA/*Angus Journal* Photograph, 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 Contest Résumés

25 Late entry deadline NJAS (online only)

21-25 Atlantic National Jr. Angus Show, Timonium, Md.

### June 2020

1 NJAA Board Candidate information due

1 Deadline for submitting names of state delegates and showmanship

contestants for NJAA elections

11-14 All American Breeders' Futurity, Louisville, Ky.

15 LEAD early registration deadline

18-20 Northwest Regional Preview, Ellensburg, Wash.

25-28 Eastern Regional Jr. Angus Show and Phenotype & Genotype Show, Lebanon, Tenn.

### July 2020

1 Late LEAD registration deadline

5-11 NJAS and Phenotype & Genotype Show, Harrisburg, Pa.

30-Aug. 2 LEAD conference