

DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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Christmas in July

Don't miss the 2008 National Junior Angus Show
in Des Moines, Iowa, July 13-19

It will be here before we know it — the show we wait all year for — the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS)! This year the show will be in Des Moines, Iowa, July 13-19.

The Iowa Junior Angus Association has been working diligently trying to make this show one of the best yet. The NJAS is the world's largest single-breed beef show, and as Angus enthusiasts, we need to be proud of that. The Iowa juniors are hoping that once again they can bring record numbers of cattle and exhibitors to the show.

It's time for everyone to start preparing for all the fun and friendly competition that will be at the NJAS. Inside the showring, juniors can exhibit their cattle or even participate in the national showmanship competition, but there are plenty of opportunities to get involved outside the showring as well. The mentoring

program, team sales, quiz bowl, Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off and speech contests are just a few examples of individual contests that you can participate in. Don't forget that there are state contests such as scrapbook, herdsmanship and even the sweepstakes contest that you can help win. For a complete list of the contests available and the rules of each contest, go to www.njaa.info for more information. Make sure to check out if your favorite contest has any changes in the rules from last year.

Start making plans to attend the 2008 NJAS in Des Moines. Not only will you be showing off the greatest breed in the world, but you will also have the opportunity to make lasting friendships and lifelong memories. I hope all of you will make it, and have safe travels to the National Junior Angus Show!

— by *Bridget Driscoll*



Calling Reporters, Writers, Photographers and More!

*The Scoop newspaper was such a fantastic hit at the 2007 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) it became a program that had to be continued for 2008. The newspaper is compiled by junior Angus members from across the country and with the assistance and guidance of agricultural communications professionals. These professionals volunteer their time and expertise to assist the junior members in making *The Scoop* a must-read for every junior Angus member across the country.*

There is a job for everyone interested in

the newspaper. Go to www.njas.info and click on "The Scoop" to complete the application form. This form is designed to give the newspaper managing team some insight on where your individual talents fit so they can make the position assignments for the *The Scoop* at the 2008 NJAS. You don't have to attend the NJAS to be a part of *The Scoop* staff. We ask that applicants be junior Angus members and that they have completed their freshman year in high school.

Sign up early to be part of this fantastic project.

Chairman's Perspective:

For my last Chairman's Perspective, I thought about all the different lessons I have learned throughout my time in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and while serving on the NJAA Board. I asked myself what is the most important thing I am taking away from all of these experiences? About a million things came to mind, but they all seemed to have one common theme, and that is that you

are never too important to lend a hand to someone in need. We are all given opportunities each day to do great things to help out others. I want to tell you to not let these moments pass you by, when we are able to put our own needs aside to help out someone, we are truly showing the characteristics of a great person. There is a quote by Lou Rosten that I have often tried to apply to my life: "The purpose of life is not to be happy—but to matter, and that is that you



Meet Miss American Angus



Danielle Foster is the 18-year-old daughter of Scott and Elaine Foster from Niles, Mich. This past November, Danielle fulfilled her lifelong dream of being chosen as Miss American Angus. During the next year she will travel around the country to various events representing the Angus breed. Danielle is currently a freshman at Southwestern Michigan College majoring



to be productive, to have it make some difference that you have lived at all." Some of you might have read this quote and thought, "I am not supposed to be happy?" What this means is that in life sometimes we are going to be asked to do things for others we might not want to do, but I am telling you to do them anyway. We only have one life to live so we need to make sure we cherish these moments.

— by *Justin Brosey*

in business and communications with an emphasis in agriculture. She plans to transfer to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in the fall of 2008 with hopes of one day becoming a broadcast journalist.

At Southwestern, Danielle is president of the Business Professionals of America chapter (BPA), after being extremely involved with BPA in high school and serving as a state officer her senior year. She is also a member of the Green Club, geared toward protecting the environment. Along with maintaining a 4.0 GPA, she was named to the President's honors list her first semester of college.

Danielle is serving her second term as the president of the Michigan Junior Angus Association (MJAA). She has been extremely involved in the MJAA and the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) for many years, participating in contests and shows.

Danielle participated in the Miss American Angus contest as a result of receiving one of the five American Angus Auxiliary scholarships last summer at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla. She is a goal-oriented young lady who knows what she wants and works hard to achieve her goals. She will do her best to promote the NJAA and its many members.

Danielle comments that some of her fondest memories have come from her participation in the NJAA and is honored to now have the chance to represent the Angus breed.

— by *Andrew Foster*

Heifer Package Supports the Angus Foundation

On a cold Thursday, Jan. 17, at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo., Angus enthusiasts from around the country gathered to show their support for the American Angus Association. Baldridge Blackcap S813 was auctioned as the 2008 Angus Foundation Heifer. Baldridge Bros., North Platte, Neb., generously donated this year's heifer.



owned by Mike Bowlin, Wetherford, Texas, purchased the heifer for \$60,000. On behalf of the American Angus Association and the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), we would like to send a sincere thanks to Mr. Bowlin and his staff for purchasing this year's foundation heifer.

The sale of the Angus Foundation Heifer Package, an annual fundraising tradition initiated in 1980, supports the Angus

Foundation, the not-for-profit affiliate of the American Angus Association that funds education, youth and research activities in the Angus breed and agricultural industry.

In addition to the heifer, the buyer received 30 days of free insurance from American Live Stock Insurance Co., Geneva, Ill.; free transportation to the buyer's ranch provided by Lathrop Livestock Transportation, Dundee, Ill.; and an Advanced Reproductive Technology Package from Trans Ova Genetics, Sioux Center, Iowa, that includes genetic preservation and one session of in-vitro fertilization with sex-sorted semen from a bull of the buyer's choice.

Once again we would like to thank Baldridge Bros. and MJB Ranch for their generous support of the Angus Foundation.

— by *Trey Davis*



Giving Back

Between the hustle and bustle of participating in contests, competing in the showing and catching up with old friends, the week of the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) can be a truly exciting time. However, the 2008 NJAS was a great time to try some new opportunities that will allow you to give back to the organization that has been so important in your own life.

The first way you can give back is through the support of the Angus Foundation by participating in the Angus Foundation Golf Tournament. The cost for National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members is only \$75. The Golf Tournament helps raise money for many events juniors participate in, such as the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference and Raising the Bar, and it helps sponsor scholarships. So gather a state team and have some fun on the sunny course in Des Moines as you help support future projects of the NJAA.

The second way you can give back at the NJAS is by donating aluminum pop can tabs. Last year was the first year the NJAA began collecting pop tabs at the NJAS and it was a huge success. More than 14 pounds (lb.), approximately 18,500 tabs, were collected. This year, the NJAA Board of Directors are looking forward to beating that goal during the second annual pop tab drive for the Ronald McDonald House. The pop tabs not only benefit the Ronald McDonald House, but also provide you with the satisfaction of knowing you have helped others through a charitable donation. The NJAA Board of Directors is encouraging all states to start the collection of pop tabs now and bring them with you to Iowa.

So, whether driving around in a golf cart is your thing or organizing the efforts to bring pop tabs to Des Moines, there will be numerous ways for each junior member to give back at the 2008 NJAS!

— by *Rebecca Tokach*

Angus Foundation scholarship applications are due **May 1** and can be accessed at www.angusfoundation.org.

PHOTO BY AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION STAFF

Saying Goodbye

During the past two years, six very different individuals heading from six different states have come together as one to serve on the National Junior Anglus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors. Six different personalities combined their individual talents, working together for one common goal: to be a positive influence and asset to the members of the NJAA.

Over the course of their term they have bonded with and learned so much from each other and countless junior members from across the country. While many of the stories from their struggles, frustrations and learning experiences may never be known by the nearly 10,000 members of the NJAA, they will always be thankful for the way that the members have touched their lives. Here is one last brief look into their term on the Board.

Justin H. Brosey

Age: 22
School: Morehead State University, senior, elementary education

What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members? Without a doubt my favorite memory of being with my fellow Board members was our spring Board trip to Steamboat Springs, Colo. We had so much fun skiing, but it was when we all decided to go sled-riding down the hill next to our condo at 1 a.m. that made the trip for me. We made a ramp that would throw you up in the air, which hurt when you landed, but was a blast.

What is your favorite memory of interacting with the junior members in your travels? I would say that my favorite memory of interacting with junior members was at the Eastern Regional in Pennsylvania last year. The Junior Board did not have many duties so we were able to go and socialize a lot with the juniors and really get to know them. Also, at the social at the end of the weekend everyone seemed to have so much fun dancing and hanging out together!

What have you learned the most about during the past two years? Over the past two years I have learned what an exceptional association of juniors I have been honored to belong to! I have witnessed younger members being helped by older members and juniors willing to work and set high goals for themselves, which does not always happen anymore. I feel this is what sets our association away from others, our members drive to accomplish great things.

Favorite quote: "Watch your thoughts; they become words. Watch your words; they become actions. Watch your actions; they become habits. Watch your habits; they become character. Watch your character; it becomes your destiny." – Frank Outlaw

Favorite Board event attended: I have had a blast at everything, but my favorite Board event to attend is the Leaders Engaged in Anglus Development (LEAD) Conference each summer. This is the event where all of our responsibilities involve working with and just spending time with the junior members with no distractions. This event is also great because all 12 of the Board members are there, working together to put on a great conference.

Advice to new juniors: When you first get into this association it's going to seem overwhelming. Stop, take a breath and then dive into it with everything you have because it will provide you with experiences and friends you will never forget!

Advice to older juniors: Sometimes we can get stuck doing the same things every year, and the association might lose some of its excitement. If this is you, take on a new leadership role; just do something you're not used to. Taking risks is what makes us try harder to succeed!

Song that best describes your Board experience: "Me and My Gang" by Rascaflatts

What will you most miss after you retire in Des Moines? Thousands of reasons go through my mind when I think about what I will miss, but I would have to say the working relations and friendships I have with my officer team. I have never worked with such an amazingly talented group of unique individuals who have come together to accomplish one goal, and that was to make this association even better than it already was. It was an honor and definitely what I will miss the most!

Your favorite thing about the retiring six as a whole: Are you kidding me? I think my favorite thing about our six is that we were a group that did not know each other that well when we got on and came from different places, but right away there was an immediate connection that allowed us to get work done and be friends with one another. And I knew from the start (our bonding time at LEAD) it was going to be an amazing adventure with y'all!

Any other words of wisdom you would like to leave behind as a retiring Board member: When you come into this association, be willing to let your guard down and experience everything. Only when you put yourself in positions where you might fail, might you grow into the best version of yourself. And lastly try to have FUN!

Joe Epperly

Age: 21
School: Virginia Tech, junior, animal science

What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members? Favorite "memories" would be more fitting. Our Board meetings and the fellowship we had during those meetings include almost all of my favorite memories of my fellow Board members. From T.P.'ing Sheila's house; twice, to Andrew and I being chased by James' dogs, to our unforgettable sled-dog adventure, and finally our amazing trip to the roller derby.

What is your favorite memory interacting with the junior members in your travels? I'm not sure I could narrow it down to just one favorite memory, but our bus trips during the past two LEAD conferences stand out in my mind. Getting to hang out with all of those members was just a plain "ole good time."

What have you learned the most about during the past two years? The past two years have taught me that having a positive attitude makes all the difference in the world. If you approach everything with a "glass half full" mentality, nothing can get you down.

Favorite quote: "Optimism is essential to achievement and it is also the foundation of courage and true progress." – Nicholas Murray Butler

Favorite Board event attended: LEAD

Advice to new juniors: Make the most of every opportunity that you have in this organization. Don't be content with the ones that are right in front of you; seek out those opportunities every chance you get.

Advice to older juniors: Never forget that there are always people watching what you do. You are a role model to younger juniors, so be sure that your actions make the right impression.

Song that best describes your Board experience: Either "Free And Easy (Down the Road I Go)" by Diekx Bentley or "The Road Goes on Forever and the Party Never Ends" by Robert Earl Keen

What will you most miss after you retire in Des Moines? The interaction with all the juniors, Board members and staff. When it's all said and done, it's the people in the Anglus family that make this opportunity so worthwhile.

Your favorite thing about the retiring six as a whole? Our drive and our diversity of talents.

Any other words of wisdom you would like to leave behind as a retiring Board member? In this world the only real thing you have is your character; build it, enrich it, protect it, and it will take you far.

Andrew Foster

Age: 21
School: Oklahoma State University, junior, animal science

What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members? Our spring Board meeting in Steamboat Springs was one of the most fun trips I have ever been on. Most of us were not any good at skiing, but we managed to have a great time.

What is your favorite memory interacting with the junior members in your travels? LEAD Conference in Georgia at Three Trees Ranch. Everyone truly had a great time, and a lot of juniors were involved.

What have you learned the most about during the past two years? To hold yourself to higher expectations, always do your best and expect more of yourself.

Favorite quote: Go big or go home!
Favorite Board event attended: Magic of The Vines, California
Advice to new juniors: Get involved, don't be afraid to put yourself out there and experience new things.

Song that best describes your Board experience: "Ain't That Sumthin'" by T.I. featuring Nox

What will you most miss after you retire in Des Moines? The junior members!

Your favorite thing about the retiring six as a whole? None of us are alike. But we all are close like family.

Any other words of wisdom you would like to leave behind as a retiring Board member? It has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.



Dana Kate Kaiser May

Age: 22
School: University of Wisconsin, senior, psychology

What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members? My favorite memory with my fellow Board members would have to be our spring Board meeting in Steamboat Springs, Colo., last year. This was a great experience as a Board as well as a group of friends. We were able to really live together as a whole group for five days instead of working out of a hotel, which really brought us all so much closer. We were able to accomplish a lot in our meetings leaving us time for making meals together, sled-dogging, skiing, snow shredding and enjoying each other's company.

What is your favorite memory of interacting with the junior members in your travels? The National Bar conferences have given me an amazing opportunity to spend one-on-one time with juniors from all over the country. It allowed me to meet more juniors and really become friends with many of them, as well as hear their desires and concerns for their state associations. I feel that it has made me a better representative of them on the Board and has also filled me with great enthusiasm for the future of the NJAA.

What have you learned the most about during the past two years? My time on the Board has taught me that each experience is what you make it. I was given a great opportunity to serve on the NJAA Board of Directors. I had a choice, I could participate in all the activities and complete my responsibilities, or I could choose to make the most of every minute and every chance I was given and go above what was required. I strived for the second. My experience on the Board has taught me that it is really important to decide what you want and give it your all to get it done.

Favorite quote: "Laugh when you can, apologize when you should, and let go of what you can't change. Play hard, forgive quickly, take chances, give everything, and have no regrets. Life is too short to be anything but happy."

Favorite Board event attended: The Atlantic National, is a very well-organized show and a great event for juniors. I was able to work with juniors who I didn't have a lot of contact with growing up in the Midwest. This event had great cattle, great juniors and an exciting atmosphere.

Advice to new juniors: Please don't wish to grow up, age 21 comes way to fast. Your years as a junior are limited, but the opportunities are endless. Take advantage of as many events, contests, shows and scholarships as you can. Never be hesitant to make a new friend! And be sure to get e-mail addresses and phone numbers. There is no other opportunity like the one you have before you as an NJAA member.

Advice to older juniors: Be sure not to wait to the last minute to start on your Achievement Awards and scholarships! And take a minute to say "Thank you" to those who have helped you throughout your junior career.

Saying Goodbye Is No Easy Task, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Song that best describes your Board experience: "My Wish" by Rasael Flatts

What will you most miss after you retire in Des Moines? Wow! What a loaded question. I will miss it all! I will miss having an excuse to see my closest friends multiple times a year. I'll miss having the resources to provide amazing opportunities to the juniors and spending time with juniors and American Angus Association staff!

Your favorite thing about the retiring six as a whole: When we were elected, we came together as some friends, some acquaintances, some nearly strangers and before the end of our first LEAD we had become a cohesive group of directors. As expected, we have had difference of opinions along the way but we have always respected each other and come together to work to give the juniors the best experience we could. I felt that we all really respected each other because we knew how hard we all had to work to get to serve on the Board and shared the common understanding that we were given this opportunity that seven others wish they could have had. And above all ... we have fun together no matter what we are doing! They have been an amazing group of people, and I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to spend the past two years with them.

Any other words of wisdom you would like to leave behind as a retiring Board member? Not a lot of wisdom, but a huge "Thank You" to everyone that made my experience possible. It has truly changed my life and been a fabulous opportunity. I appreciate all those that helped me along the way.

Rebecca Jean Tokach

Age: 21

School: Kansas State University, junior, animal sciences & industry

What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members? 2007

spring Board meeting. From the supposed two-hour van ride (which really took like four hours), to watching Zeb Gray and Tracee Veestra attempting to ski, and late-night sledding, that trip left me with a lot of laughs and good memories.

What is your favorite memory of interacting with the junior members in your travels? 2007 NJAS. At the NJAS, we as a junior Board have the best opportunity to meet juniors from all across the country. More specifically, I enjoyed signing the mentoring program booklets because it allowed me to be able to talk to the younger members of the NJAA. It was amazing to be able to talk to them and share with them the enthusiasm of the NJAA.

What have you learned the most about during the past two years? The greatest thing I have learned over the past two years is how to embrace the differences of my team and be open-minded to all ideas. During my term, a lot of new ideas and challenges have been brought to the table. Our team has learned to work together and build upon each other's strengths. As a team, we may have our differences, but we have worked together to help make a positive impact on the NJAA. I have tried to carry the same work ethic we use on the Board into all the activities I am involved in.

Favorite quote: "Shout for the moon, because even if you miss you will still be among the stars."

Favorite Board event attended: LEAD 2007 in Athens, Ga.

Advice to new juniors: Get involved now! When you are young you have the most time for improvement. Find the events and contests that you really enjoy, so that when you are 21 years old and looking back on

your NJAA career you can say that you did everything that you wanted to do.

Advice to older juniors: Stay involved with the younger members of your state associations. Take the time to visit with them, and help them clip their hair or give them showmanship tips. Many of the younger members in your state associations look up to you. So, go the extra mile and serve as their mentor.

Song that best describes your Board experience: "Don't Blink" by Kenny Chesney

What will you most miss after you retire in Des Moines? The opportunity to help influence the lives of over 10,000 NJAA members and seeing my fellow Board members on a regular basis.

Your favorite thing about the retiring six as a whole: My favorite thing about our six is how passionate each of us is about the Angus breed and the members of the NJAA. I have never met five other individuals who care so much on making a positive difference in the lives of the members of the NJAA and are willing to do whatever is necessary to make an impact.

Any other words of wisdom you would like to leave behind as a retiring Board member? Enjoy your years as a member of the NJAA.

You have a limited amount of time to be involved. Don't be afraid to try new contests or attend different events. Set goals for yourself and work hard to achieve them. Remember, after you turn 21 you can't go back and relive your years as a junior member. Make your years as an NJAA member memorable, and most of all, have fun!

Kara Michelle Wilson

Age: 21

School: University of Kentucky, junior, agricultural communications & economics

What is your favorite memory with your fellow Board members? Spring

Board meeting 2007 in Steamboat Springs, Colo.; Atlantic Natlo nails and bonding in Baltimore, Md.; team-building activities in Athens, Ga., after LEAD last summer.

What is your favorite memory of interacting with the junior members in your travels? Last year I had the

opportunity to go to Pennsylvania for the Eastern Regional show. Due to some trouble in flight scheduling and delays, I arrived at the fairgrounds nearly an entire day before most of the Board members and half a day before James. Thankfully, there was a lot of the Pennsylvania juniors and their families already hard at work at the fairgrounds who were ready to put me to work. I really had the opportunity to jump in and get to know a lot of people from outside of my home region. Although I could list many events where I have very fond memories of interacting with juniors, that show is probably my favorite because I met so many people that week from the northeastern states that I hadn't had a chance to get to know before.

What have you learned the most about during the past two years? I have learned so much over the past two years about myself, others and leadership in general. I've learned that in a position like this, you have to be resourceful. You have to be able to find answers to questions and circumstances that you're not prepared for. You have to always present yourself in a manner that is suitable for a role model. I've learned that my first impressions of some people are not always as accurate as I think. Some of the people I thought I would dislike the most have become some of my best friends, and I've learned that two years is not nearly enough time to cram in all the memories I could hope to make.

Favorite quote: "Days turn to minutes and minutes to memories. Life sweeps away the dreams we have planned. You are young and you are the future, so suck it up and tough it out and be the best you can."
—John McEneaney

Favorite Board event attended: This one is tough. It has to be a tie between Atlantic Nationals and LEAD. My trip with the Board was the first time I had ever been to Atlantic Nationals before, and it was such a blast. I was very impressed at what a "junior-focused" show it truly is. LEAD has always been one of my favorite NJAA events because it doesn't have many of the distractions that the shows might. The juniors really get to know each other and learn from each other. The conference from the perspective of a Board member allowed me a chance to influence juniors the same way I had been influenced at the conference the five previous years.

Advice to new juniors: Don't be intimidated by how overwhelming the association can seem. My goal for the Board started in 2001 at my first LEAD conference, and I was afraid to even tell people that's what high and don't look back.

Advice to older juniors: Don't get stuck in a rut. Challenge yourself to meet new people every year. Don't just stay in the same group of friends, you are familiar and comfortable with. The more people you meet, the more you will gain from the NJAA.

Song that best describes your Board experience: "Life's a Dance" by John Michael Montgomery. The Board really is something that you learn as you go. You take each different experience and walk away with something different every time. With all the different strengths and weaknesses we all have, you also learn when it is your time to lead and when it is your time to follow.

What will you most miss after you retire in Des Moines? The people. I have always said that I got into this association because of the cattle, but it's the people that kept me here. Even though the association is something that I always hope to be around, the Board has allowed me to travel to a lot more events and meet more juniors. There are so many things that I will be sad to leave behind but the chance to work with the juniors so closely will be one of the hardest.

Your favorite thing about the retiring six as a whole: We are all so different and yet we can agree to disagree. There are never any hidden agendas within our Board or any stand that any individual makes out of pure motive. Because of this, we may strongly disagree with each other, but we respect each other because we are confident that their stand is because they believe that is what's best for the association. The year we ran for the Board, many of us had very close, very well-qualified friends who were also running. After we were elected we all knew how deserving any of the other kids were, and we chose to be thankful for the opportunity and challenge placed in front of us. Many of us were no more than acquaintances when we started in July of '06 in Indianapolis, but by the time we left Oklahoma a month later after LEAD we were a team.

Any other words of wisdom you would like to leave behind as a retiring Board member? It's something small and seems trivial to leave behind as some of my biggest advice, but write notes to people! You will be amazed at how much a small thank you or Christmas card can mean to people. It's a great habit to get into no matter what year you are involved in. It's personally one thing I plan to continue doing after my days with the junior Board.

—by Kara Wilson

2008 LEAD CONFERENCE

Take it to the TOP!

The 2007 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference held in the sunny state of Georgia brought 170 young leaders and their advisors together from 34 states and Canada. You won't want to miss the 2008 conference in Montana, themed "Take it to the Top," Aug. 1-4. The schedule has been changed to a Friday-Monday conference.

This year, LEAD participants will have the opportunity to travel to Montana, the "Treasure State," home of the "Big Sky," open land, majestic mountains and friendly people.

The schedule for this year's event is filled with fun activities involving leadership, Angus cattle and friendship. LEAD participants will be treated to Vermont hospitality and the viewing of some top Angus genetics at Vermilion Ranch.

Throughout the conference, participants will have the opportunity to share ideas through roundtable discussions. An outstanding speaker will provide members with inspiration to take home and share with their state associations. And of course, there will be activities that will further enhance members' leadership skills and beef industry knowledge.

You'll have an opportunity to play under the "Big Sky." Get ready to enjoy the Midnight Rodeo under the lights and a visit to Cody, Wyo., home of the Buffalo Bill Museum and Historical Center. And of course, there'll be plenty of time to visit with friends and get to know new friends better.

LEAD is open to all National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members who are 14 years or older, as well as parents and state advisors. Look for more information in the green entry booklet or on the web site at www.njaa.info. Remember to mark your calendar and sign up early for this incredible event. "Take it to the Top," explore "Big Sky Country," and discover all the treasures LEAD and Montana have to offer.

—by Braudon Creamer



Beyond the Showring at the National Junior Angus Show

Spring has finally arrived, and it signals that the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) is fast approaching and preparation for the numerous contests will be starting soon. Last year, more than 800 outstanding juniors participated in the 12 contests held in Tulsa, Okla. Three juniors were recognized for their extensive participation with the honor of the Crystal Award given by the American Angus Auxiliary, Ransom Gardner and Cole Gardner, Kansas, tied as the male recipients and Julie Thiden, Michigan, was the female.

At your upcoming state meetings and shows, start organizing teams for team sales, the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) Cook-Off and quiz bowl. Check out the topics for the creative writing and prepared speech contests on the web site. Don't forget to take your camera along to catch the winning shot for the photography contest.

If you're not able to make the trip to Des Moines, Iowa, don't fret! You can still participate in the photography, poster, graphic design, creative writing and state scrapbook contests.

In addition to the contests this year, there will be a showmanship clinic to teach juniors of all ages to become a master stick. I'll even bet a few seniors will learn a trick or two. The clinic will cover everything including basic ring etiquette, showing preparation and tips to make you excel.

We're looking forward to seeing your unique personal flare in the contest this summer! For more details on each contest, please visit www.njiaa.info or get in touch with an NJAA director.

—by *Dana May*

Enjoy the Des Moines Sights at NJAS

This summer in Des Moines, Iowa, families will gather from all over the country for the 2008 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Every junior and their family knows that the NJAS is much more than "just a show," with all of the leadership contests and extra activities. However, for many Angus families, their annual trip to the NJAS is also their annual family vacation for the year.

This trip across the country gives families a chance to see friends from other states who they don't get to see on a regular basis, but for many families, a vacation should also include seeing or eating at local attractions. As you start thinking about your trip to Iowa this summer, try checking out some of the local attractions listed here:

Des Moines Park & Recreation

3226 University Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50311
515-237-1386

Des Moines Art Center

4700 Grand Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50312
515-277-4405

Blank Golf Course

808 County Line Rd.
Des Moines, IA 50315
515-285-0864

Brenton Skating Plaza

520 Robert D. Ray Dr.
Des Moines, IA 50309
515-284-1000

Fort Des Moines Museum and Education Center

75 E. Army Post Rd.
Des Moines, IA 50315
515-282-8060

Living History Farms

2600 NW 111th St.
Urbandale, IA 50322
515-278-5286

Adventureland Park

305 34th Ave. NW
Altoona, IA 50009
515-266-2121

Merle Hay Mall

3850 Merle Hay Rd., Suite 101
Des Moines, IA 50310
515-276-8551

Shops at Roosevelt

841 42nd St.
Des Moines, IA 50312
515-255-1630

Blank Park Zoo

7401 SW 9th St.
Des Moines, IA 50315
515-323-8385

Hawkeye Tack & Western Wear

720 E. 30th St.
Des Moines, IA 50317
515-264-1622

Chill's Grill & Bar/Ankeny

2601 SE Delaware Ave.
Ankeny, IA 50021
515-963-8400

Indigo Joe's Sports Pub & Restaurant

114 S. Duff Ave.
Ames, IA 50010
515-291-5914

Crimmins Cattle Co. Restaurant

1201 E. Army Post Rd.
Des Moines, IA 50315
515-287-6611

Iowa Beef Steak House

1201 E. Euclid Ave.
Des Moines, IA 50313
515-262-1138

—by *Kara Wilson*

JAMES' JUNCTION

The Rush for Leadership is On!

Regional Preview Junior Angus Shows, *Western Regional, Eastern Regional, National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, Raising the Bar, state activities and more.*

Wow! Can it really be the start of the 2008 junior Angus show and event season? The Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC) was another fantastic show as it sets the year ahead for junior Angus shows. The new Raising the Bar state officer training workshops held in October and November have been great successes, and two more are planned in April in Baton Rouge, La., and Boise, Idaho. The workshops provide hands-on planning and organization for the state officer teams attending. With a focus on the state officer teams and getting these teams to work together in planning and executing events for their state, they have provided an air of excitement and enthusiasm.

Showing excellent cattle and developing great young leaders, that is what the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) is about. What will you be tomorrow? Do you want to be a breeder of excellent Angus cattle? Do you want to be a leader in your state junior Angus association? Do you want to be on the NJAA Board of Directors? The rush for leadership is on.

How do you accomplish your goals? You start by setting goals and getting involved. First you get involved at the local and state level and then on the national level. You show up prepared for meetings, you volunteer for committees and you accept leadership positions when asked to serve. You study and think about the activities and events being held, and you provide input to the organizers on how to make them better.

So do you want to be a leader? You can be, but you have to get involved first. It really does come down to being involved.

—by *James Fisher*

Scholarship Application Tips

Get your records out, make copies of the applications and rack your brain. It is time to fill out any scholarships and awards for which you are applicable. Don't hesitate to complete any application, as you never know what the selection committee is looking for, and you don't want to miss out on the benefits. Scholarships and awards are a great way to help with college expenses and are easy to complete, especially if you have kept good records. They will take time to fill out, but your time is well worth it.

Here are a few pointers to keep in mind when you are completing applications.

Everything counts. It is easy to overlook the small things you did, but every experience in associations, church, community and civic organizations counts. From being on a committee to assisting at a blood drive, each is important.

Do not short yourself. If it is important enough to include on your application, it should be explained. You shouldn't just mention something you did, but rather explain it, even if it is a short description. For example: "Worked at a blood drive," is less descriptive than "Assisted at the canteen of a community blood drive." Now your position at the blood drive is defined.

Complete the applications early. The earlier you complete your application, the more time you have to review what you have done. This also allows you to have other individuals look over it. School guidance counselors, advisors and family friends are great supporters and editors. In addition, completing the application early gives you ample time to mail it. You won't have to worry about it not being received on time.

Get started now and give yourself credit for all you have done. I hope these few tips will help you while you are completing your applications and you are successful in your endeavors!

—by *Mallory Trospier*

Spotlight on a Junior: Alex Rogan

One of the things that is so great about the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) is that we are given opportunities to meet tons of different and fascinating people from all over the country. One of those people I have had the pleasure of getting to know is Alex Rogan from South Dakota. Alex is what I like to call an example of someone who is living his or her NJAA experience to the fullest!

Age: 13
Hometown: Brandon, S.D.
Years showing: Five years, and lovin' every minute of it.
Favorite contest at NJAS and why? Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) Cook-Off contest. I love acting, eating CAB beef and speaking in front of people.

What do you like to do for fun other than showing cattle? I play soccer and trumpet.

Favorite show or Angus event and why? The NJAS. It's in many different places, it's not just showing cattle, it's meeting people and having fun.

Favorite Angus memory? Watching my first Angus calf being born and watching it stumble as it tried to get up.

Words of advice to other junior members? If you find yourself in below-zero temperatures, or you're on the wash rack on a hot day, remember, it all pays off in the showing.

Favorite movie? Wayne's World. "Wayne's World! Wayne's World! Party Time! Excellent!"

—by *Justin Brosky*



Resolutions

As I write to you, it is the beginning of 2008, and as with the year beginning of every year there are always resolutions. This year instead of making the typical resolutions of losing weight or concentrating more on school, I decided to set some leadership goals for myself. So I really evaluated the areas of leadership that are problematic for me and came up with three things. Hopefully you can find these helpful to you on your road to becoming a better leader.

Be impeccable with your words. This is one that John Stika, the president of Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), used when he spoke at Raising the Bar this past fall, and it is something I struggle with every day.

To be impeccable with your words is not only avoiding using foul language as some of us have a tendency to do, but to be clear with your message and easy to understand. The latter is usually the bigger problem for me. Sometimes in an effort to get my point across, or to be funny, I will lose some of you in the translation.

That stumbling sometimes causes me to lose the point I was desperately trying to make, or worse, yet, say something hurtful. It's what I like to call "Foot in Mouth" disease, and it causes problems with being taken seriously in my relationships with people. Lately I have learned that I think much faster than I talk (mainly because I talk slow) and have to force myself to slow down and really think about what I say as I say it, focusing more on the person I'm talking to rather than what I'm going to say next.

Practice "glad-attitude." My pastor likes to use the term "glad-attitude" often when he talks about having a positive attitude. Glad-attitude is believing that every day you are faced with the choice of how you approach life. You can decide to let things get you down, be

Cow Quiz

—By Ann Blumer

1: What do you call a cattle trailer with nothing in it?



2: What do you call an arctic cow?

3: What do you call a girl cow in Spanish?

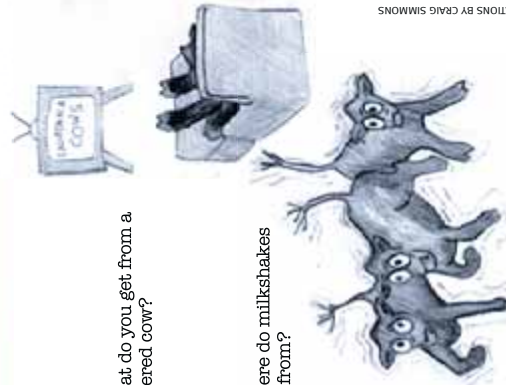
negative and just be unhappy, or you can decide that no matter what life throws at you you're going to spin it into a positive.

This one is really tough for me because as a problem solver I tend to focus on the negatives so I can fix them, and sometimes that gets me down. Luckily I have some of you to show me how to live with a positive attitude, like my friend Clinton Ladfin. Clinton, in my mind, personifies glad-attitude, as anyone who knows him will attest. I have never seen him without a smile on his face and a positive word to say. He's a young man who faces challenges every day just doing things that most of us take for granted; and yet he's always positive. That attitude makes him someone everyone wants to be around and makes him one of my personal heroes.

Never forget small kindnesses. This is one I have always tried to practice but I tend to get too busy and wrapped up in the business of the day to practice it regularly. To define a small kindness, it could be helping somebody move their heifer at a show, complimenting your friend on a new hair cut, thanking your parents for everything they do, or simply calling somebody by their name. A small kindness is letting someone know that you care about them, or that they matter to you. Let me tell you, to know somebody cares means a lot and will make a difference to them. Small kindnesses cost you very little, but the rewards are great in the way people around you think of you and how you feel about yourself.

Hopefully these resolutions are something you can use yourself or help you come up with others. Whatever your resolutions for this year, I hope you have stuck to them and they help you on your journey to becoming the best leader you can be.

—by Joe Epperty



4: What do you get from a pampered cow?

5: Where do milkshakes come from?

1: A cattle-lack 2: An eskimo 3: Moochacha 4: Spoiled milk 5: Excited cows

What is in the Brand?



This past year was another exciting year for Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB). The Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) brand, which is arguably the most recognizable brand of beef in the world, experienced growth in many areas, helping it to achieve its highest sales mark in history of 584 million pounds. In 2007, the brand had more than 14,300 licensees, or sellers of CAB product, in 39 countries.

One might ask, "What has made CAB so successful?" Common knowledge might say that a good product and advertising make a product successful. This statement is true. The prosperity of CAB is due to the quality eating experience that the brand provides, but this product has been built by much more than a good steak and a billboard. The CAB team requires efforts in various sectors to successfully take a beef animal from the hoof to the dinner table at a premium price.

The brand has many different divisions that make it successful. The process starts with the Supply Development Division. This team advises producers, including those who breed registered Angus cattle and commercial producers using Angus bulls, in order to help increase the supply of black-headed cattle that qualify for the program. Second comes the Packing Division, which license packers who grade and distribute the carcasses. Once the beef is boxed, the meat must be marketed.

The Marketing Division is not involved in actual sales of steaks and burgers. Rather, this team markets the quality of the CAB product as a whole. Basically, it promotes the logo and the integrity the logo represents. The purpose of the Retail and International divisions is to increase the number of licensees, such as grocery stores and restaurants. The Value-Added Products Division has the job of taking lesser-quality cuts of beef to cut and package in a way to make the carcass more valuable. Another important division is Brand Assurance. When the CAB trademark logo is used, this division helps to ensure that the product being sold is actually CAB.

The many divisions serve the purpose of both increasing the supply and the demand for the brand. The conglomeration of efforts by the teams in Ohio and Kansas has made the brand winning and profitable, for the logo is recognized by consumers all over the world. The job now falls to breeders to produce more cattle that will qualify for the brand so that next year will be another record-breaking year for Certified Angus Beef.

—by Walt Stinson

ANGUS WORD FIND

—by Ann Blumer

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

American Angus Association	Andrew Foster	Ann Blumer
Brandon Creamer	Bridget Driscoll	Bull
Certified Angus Beef	Dana May	Des Moines, Iowa
James Fisher	fitting	Heifer
Kara Wilson	Joe Epperty	Justin Brosey
NJAA	LEAD	Mallory Trosper
scotch comb	Raising the Bar	Rebecca Tokach
show stick	Shella Stannard	Show
Walt Stinson	St. Joseph	Trey Davis
	Wootter	

American Royal Dates

Oct. 28-Nov. 2

Show – Friday, Oct. 31, beginning at 8 a.m. **Entry Deadline** – Sept. 10

Schedule – Angus Junior Show followed by Super-Point Roll of Victory (ROV) Show

Important Dates and Deadlines for Juniors

APRIL 2008

- 15 Ownership and entry deadline for the Atlantic National Junior Angus Show
- 25-26 Western Regional Junior Angus Show, Reno, Nev.

MAY 2008

- 1 Deadline for Gold Award applications
- 1 Outstanding Leadership Award applications due
- 1 Ownership & entry deadline for the Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show
- 1 Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB)/National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) scholarship applications due
- 1 Angus Foundation scholarship applications due
- 15 Ownership & Entry deadline for the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show
- 23-25 Atlantic National Junior Angus Show, Timonium, Md.

JUNE 2008

- 1 Ownership & Entry deadline for the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS)
- 1 Entry deadline for the NJAA creative writing, NJAA/*Angus Journal* photography and NJAA graphic design contests
- 1 Entry & recipe deadline for the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off
- 1 Ownership deadline for the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Junior Angus Show
- 10 Deadline for the NJAA public speaking contest speech outlines
- 15 Deadline for submitting names of state candidates and delegates for NJAA elections
- 15 LEAD registrations due (early registration deadline)
- 20 Entry deadline for the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Junior Angus Show
- 20-22 Eastern Regional Junior Show, Lewisburg, W.Va.

- 30 Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Moses Lake, Wash.

JULY 2008

- 1-2 Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Moses Lake, Wash.
- 13-19 NJAS, Des Moines, Iowa
- 24-27 The All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Junior Preview Show, Louisville, Ky.

AUGUST 2008

- 1-4 LEAD Conference, Billings, Mont.
- 1 Ownership deadline (issue date) for North American International Livestock Exhibition (NAILE) Junior Show and American Royal Junior Show

SEPTEMBER 2008

- 10 Entry deadline for American Royal Junior Heifer Show
- TBA NJAA Board Meeting, Saint Joseph, Mo.

OCTOBER 2008

- 1 Entry deadline for NAILE Junior Heifer Show
- 31 American Royal Junior Show, Kansas City, Mo.

NOVEMBER 2008

- 1 Ownership deadline (issue date) for National Western Stock Show (NWSS) junior competition
- 15 Entry deadline NWSS
- 16 NAILE, Louisville, Ky.

JUNE 2009

- TBA North Central Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Austin, Minn.
- 17-20 Ozark Regional Preview Jr. Angus Show, Springfield, Mo.

JULY 2009

- 19-26 NJAS, Perry, Ga.

Note: *American Royal, NAILE and the National Western ownership deadlines are ISSUE DATES. All other deadlines listed are POSTMARK DATES.*

Each household with one or more active NJAA members is to receive one copy of each semiannual youth-oriented issue of the ANGUS JOURNAL® (May and September) and one copy of each semiannual NJAA DIRECTIONS newsletter (Spring and Fall). If you, a brother or sister do not receive these issues, contact the ANGUS JOURNAL Circulation Department or the American Angus Association Membership Department.

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