

DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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Spring 2012



Peak Performance

Have you ever viewed the most beautiful ranch in the United States while white-water rafting down the Poudre River, hypnotized? You haven't? Well in that case, fill out your form for the

Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference! This year's LEAD Conference will take place in Fort Collins, Colo., Aug. 2 -5.

It is guaranteed to be the most fun, exciting, meaningful and perfect LEAD Conference there has ever been. With the help of many of you, we were able to take your comments and concerns from last year's conference and mold them into the most amazing conference juniors will go to. Not only can you expect a diverse group of speakers to present at LEAD, but the combination of exciting activities and noteworthy learning encounters are sure to be spot on.

When you sign up for LEAD, you can expect only the best. Not only will we be starting off the week right with a hilarious evening of hypnotists, speakers and the best-ever board skit, but we've jam-packed two days full of fun and exciting events. Friday is a day of non-stop fun. We will spend the day white water rafting, climbing on a high-ropes course and shopping in beautiful downtown Fort Collins; then dance the night away a day earlier than normal. Saturday is a day of touring the beautiful countryside of Colorado. We will spend the morning at Colorado State University learning about ranching in high altitudes.



Spruce Mountain Ranch

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Chairman's Perspective:

Memories scroll through my mind as I sit here to write my final Directions article, some being happy while others sad, but in the end they all produce a smile across my face. My time as a green jacket will forever have a place in my heart; not only because of the position, but also the knowledge and friends I gained during my experience the past two years. The knowledge I have gathered from the countless speakers and old cowboys has furthered me more in life than I would have ever expected. Staying involved, as well as being an advocate for agriculture, has been the basic message of all these speakers and I only hope, along with the rest of my Board, to continue to spread the



message of agriculture on to all of you.

Earlier this year a speaker made the point that youth in agriculture are not the future of agriculture; instead, they are the now. That statement could not be any truer, especially with today's technology for youth's voice to easily be heard. With that being said, I urge each of you to follow suit and to always promote the industry that we all love. Whether it is telling your class about what is going on at the family farm or telling others of the many agriculture products that are involved in their daily lives.

Youth's ability to paint the correct image of agriculture's benefits can go the distance when speaking to others around you with little to no knowledge, except the negativity shown in the

media, of the agriculture industry. With today's technology and youth's working knowledge, it is our time to create a trend, not just an industry trend, but a national or international trend to promote the truth about agriculture and remove the negative picture of our practices.

Despite being ridiculed constantly, the world's needs are depending on agriculture at an exponential rate. Luckily, production agriculture is at an all-time high in terms of sustainability and production with such limited resources, despite the extreme production cost.

As my Granddaddy use to always say, "everything comes from the soil." To me that is a reason to promote what we do and give a good reputation to the land, livestock and crops that we all love and call American agriculture.

— *by Clay Williams*

Words of Wisdom

Officers of the National Junior Angus Association Board of Directors reflect on their NJAA careers and offer advice.

Now nearing the end of their two-year term of serving on the NJAA Board of Directors, the six officers take a moment to reflect back on the lessons learned and memories made throughout their junior careers.

"The decision to prioritize junior Angus activities was not difficult for me at all. I love cattle and I love spending time with my cattle family. Balancing everything was hard at times, and I learned the value of time management. There is no doubt I am a better person since I chose to stay actively involved in the Angus breed, and I wouldn't change one crazy, busy minute of it." — *Lindsey Grimes, Ohio, Foundation Director*

"My biggest advice is to not overload yourself. Learn how to say no. If you cannot give every position the time that it deserves, then step back and let someone else take on the responsibility." — *Garrett Knebel, Ind., Leadership Director*

"The best way to meet new friends at Angus events is to get involved, whether it is competing in a contest at the NJAS,

participating in the mentoring program, or just walking around the barns and introducing yourself. The impact of my Angus friendships can never be replaced." — *Alisha Nord, Minn., Communications Director*

"My time in college has brought me to appreciate my involvement in the beef industry. My ranch and NJAA experiences have taught me work ethic and communication; skills that so many people around me in college could benefit from." — *Clay Williams, Ga., Chairman*

"Look at every contest as a new learning experience. You will always learn something new, either about yourself or about the beef industry you are involved in." — *Shane Clary, Va., Membership Director*

"Remember where you came from and who you really are. No one can make you change. You are here to be you and to do whatever it is that you feel is right, whether that is continuing on with an agriculture-related field of work or changing courses entirely." — *Austin Brandt, Iowa, Vice Chairman*

— *by Meghan Blythe*

NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERMS UP IN 2012

CLAY WILLIAMS, Georgia, **chairman**, d cw3791@gmail.com

AUSTIN BRANDT, Iowa, **vice chairman**, brandtfarms@wildblue.net

ALISHA NORD, Minnesota, **communications director**, alisha.nord@my.ndsu.edu

LINDSEY GRIMES, Ohio, **Foundation director**, grimes.159@buckeyemail.osu.edu

GARRETT KNEBEL, Indiana, **membership director**, garrett.knebel@okstate.edu

SHANE CLARY, Virginia, **leadership director**, shane.clary.08@cnu.edu

TERMS UP IN 2013

JANLEE ROWETT, Tennessee, Janlee.rowlett@okstate.edu

SALLY YON, South Carolina, sallyy@g.clemson.edu

MEGHAN BLYTHE, Kansas, Mblythe7@k-state.edu

MEGAN AHEARN, Texas, mahearn@mail.utexas.edu

KELLI RETALLICK, Wisconsin, kretallick@wisc.edu

JENNIFER EWING, Illinois, ewing6@illinois.edu

Robin's Report

Be a philanthropist today!



As one we can make an impact; as a group we can make an even bigger impact. As a member of the NJAA, you have touched many lives through our work in the various community service projects done over the past few years. Whether it's donating school supplies and backpacks, or collecting pop tabs, through your acts of kindness, you have touched the lives of others that you may never meet.

So, what do you call yourself? You may call it volunteering or just helping out; but have you heard of the term philanthropists? Merriam-Webster defines philanthropists as: one who makes an active effort to promote human welfare. We are all philanthropists in the work we have done, and will continue to do.

In February, I watched an event online, called THON, held at Penn State University (PSU). THON is a dance marathon where college students danced for 46 hours straight, with no sleep, to raise money for pediatric cancer patients and their families. More than 15,000 PSU

students raised \$10.6 million dollars for the Four Diamonds Fund at the Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital. The entire campus is involved in the largest student-run philanthropy event in the world, where they raise money "For the Kids" (FTK).

As for the students at PSU, they don't know any of the children or families who will benefit from their accomplishments of raising funds, but they walk away from the weekend with enthusiasm and pride in themselves for the work done to help comfort and relieve stress of those affected. As philanthropists in the NJAA, I hope you reap the same enjoyment from the work we do to help others, whether it be children, military and families across the United States.

Being a philanthropist is contagious; who will you encourage to get involved?

— by Robin R. Ruff

Peak Performance

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Soon after, we will visit Aristocrat Angus and Rocky Mountain Sire Services on our way to quite possibly the most breathtaking ranch in America, Spruce Mountain Ranch. Finally, on Sunday, we will listen to one of the most

moving speakers of all time that will present Rachel's Challenge, have fun in new and exciting workshops geared towards your own interests, and send you off with an inspiring presentation by Andrew McCrea. This is the

first LEAD on record where there's actually a surprise in store that's not listed on the schedule.

Don't miss the opportunity to make hundreds of new friends while taking part in the best LEAD Conference of your junior Angus career. Go to the newly renovated NJAA website to find the enrollment form and send it in now! There's no question that the spots will fill up faster than ever, so jump at the opportunity to join in this year's LEAD Conference.

— by Garrett Knebel

Editor's note: Cover photo was taken on the Poudre River on June 1, 2008 by Kimon Berlin. Photo of Spruce Mountain Ranch courtesy of Spruce Mountain Ranch.

Left: 2011-2012 NJAA Board of Directors participate in a ropes course at their September board meeting in St. Joseph, Mo.



Member Meet-Up

Meet these four NJAA members from across the country



Corbin Cowles

Age: 14

Hometown: Rockfield, Ky.

Grade in School: 9th

Favorite Food: A good ole ribeye with a baked potato

Favorite Song: "Chattahoochee" by Alan Jackson

Name of your first show heifer: "Angel" — She was a September senior calf and was as gentle as could be. Even though we did not win much at

all, she and I had some good memories together.

Favorite NJAA Show: The Atlantic National

What is your favorite cattle show memory? It was when my sister's heifer won the state fair this year. It was our first winner at the state fair and we were so excited.

What extracurricular activities are you involved in? Basketball and showing cattle

Who do you consider your hero? Jesus Christ is my hero because he died on the cross for our sins.

What do you want to be when you grow up? A Veterinarian/Embryologist

What is your favorite farm chore? Getting up in the morning and feeding all the show stock.

What was your first LEAD Conference? My first LEAD was last year in St. Louis, Mo.

What is your favorite thing about the National Junior Angus Show? Tough decision! My favorite thing about the NJAS is the memories and the friends you make along the way. It's not always about the Purple.

Name one of your favorite NJAA Directors of the past or present. Why do you look up to them? Sally Yon — She has taught me to always have a positive outlook on anything, whether good or bad.



Macy Perry

Age: 15

Hometown: Prather, Calif.

Grade in School: 10th

Favorite Food: Lasagna

One interesting fact about you: My older brother gave me the nickname Turtle because I never did anything fast enough.

Name of your first show heifer: "Paris" — When I first bought her she was mean, green and had

a leg that had been injured. She got over the last two and did well in the showing and turned into a great cow that has produced a lot of progeny.

Favorite NJAA Show: National Junior Angus Show

What is the furthest you have ever travelled to a show? Where was it?

The farthest we have driven is about 3,100 miles one way, and it was in Harrisburg, Pa. last summer. It was a great trip and having Flat Andy made it even more fun!

What is your favorite cattle show memory? One of my favorite showing memories was when I won my first show at Del Mar with my heifer Martha and also won reserve with my heifer, Paris. The show was right on the beach and we exercised the cattle on the same race track where Seabiscuit ran!

What extracurricular activities are you involved in? I am involved in FFA. This year I will be competing in Novice Parliamentary Procedure and Livestock Judging, and I am also the chapter reporter.

Who do you consider your hero? I would consider my parents as my heroes because they are always there for me and my brothers. Even though they work many hours, they still have time to help us with our cattle projects and I appreciate everything they have done for me.

What is your least favorite farm chore? My least favorite farm chore is washing the cattle, especially in the winter time.

What was your first National Junior Angus Show? First NJAS I went to was in Denver, Colo., in 2005.

What is your favorite thing about the National Junior Angus Show? My favorite thing about National Junior Angus Show is showing my cattle and meeting new people.

What advice do you have for a junior member or showman just starting out? The advice I have for a junior member or showman who is just starting out is to always work hard and try your best. Set goals for yourself and how you can achieve them, and you can be successful with your cattle.



Carter Ward

Age: 16

Hometown: Plattsburg, Mo.

Grade in School: 10th

Favorite Food: Certified Angus Beef® Steak

Favorite Song: "Wear My Ring" by Bart Crow Band

Name of your first show heifer: "Minnie"

Favorite NJAA Event: LEAD Conference

What is the furthest you have ever travelled to a show? Where was it? The furthest I have ever traveled to a show was to Argentina to watch my dad judge.

What extracurricular activities are you involved in? I play varsity basketball and soccer for my school.

Who do you consider your hero? I consider my Dad my hero because he



always seems to have the answers and I'd like to follow in his footsteps when I grow up because he's very successful to me.

What do you want to be when you grow up? When I grow up I would like to have a good job in agriculture.

What was your first LEAD Conference? My first LEAD was in Nashville, Tenn. in 2010.

Name one of your favorite NJAA Directors of the past or present. Why do you look up to them? Cody Smith---We're both from Missouri and go to the same shows, and he's always been a person I look up to.

What advice do you have for a junior member or showman just starting out? Just be very outgoing and participate in as many of the NJAA activities that you can make it to, because it is a great program and you will meet a lot of nice people.



Cheyenne Jones

Age: 15

Hometown: Franklinton, La.

Grade in School: 10th

Favorite Food: Spaghetti

Favorite Song: "My Kind Of Crazy" by Brantley Gilbert

One interesting fact about you: I am an only child.

Name of your first show heifer: "Molly"

Favorite NJAA Show or Event: The National Junior Angus Show

What is the furthest you have ever travelled to a show? Where was it? The National Junior Angus Show in Denver.

What is your favorite memory on the farm? Falling asleep in the feed box when I was little.

Who do you consider your hero? My mom is my hero because she is the most amazing person in my life, and she always knows what to do in tough situations.

What do you want to be when you grow up? I want to be an athletic trainer.

What was your first National Junior Angus Show? The first National Junior Angus Show that I attended was in Kansas City, in 1996. I was only six weeks old.

What is your favorite thing about the National Junior Angus Show? My favorite thing about the NJAS is seeing all of my friends from across the country that I don't see very often.

What advice do you have for a junior member or showman just starting out? Work hard in the beginning because it all pays off in the end!

— by *JanLee Rowlett*



The National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) is one of the best weeks during the summer time. During the week we will see old friends and meet new ones. We are able to show off our cattle with some of the finest animals across the nation. Juniors are also able to show their abilities in various contests, like speaking, acting, photography, their knowledge for the Angus breed and beef industry.

And, now, juniors will be able to showcase more talents, with the new video competitions and modifications of the Career Development Contest — that incorporates more people and age divisions while promoting the Angus breed.

The NJAA will now offer an Intermediate division in the career development contest; each contestant will be judged in three categories, which consists of a resume, an interview and an overall score. The junior Board feels that this is very important to help prepare students in high school and college for scholarship interviews, school interviews and job interviews.

The new video contest is separated into the three age divisions: junior, intermediate and senior. Each junior will record a commercial before the NJAS directed to promoting the NJAA.

Commercials will have a time limit and played throughout the week of NJAS. Entries should be postmarked by June 1.

Further rules for the NJAA contest are posted on www.njaa.info. Be sure to read the rules so you know what is allowed to be in the videos you will be recording.

We hope these contest will gain interest from our juniors which will provide further opportunities for career development. So, start working on those resumes and videos because we want to see how your experiences with the NJAA have shaped you to be successful in the business world.

— by *Shane Clary*

Briarwood Buys Foundation Pair



Right: Curtis Long (left) and his wife, Ann, purchased the 2011 and 2012 Angus Foundation Heifer packages. Long is pictured with NJAA Foundation Director Lindsey Grimes (center) and NJAA Director Sally Yon.



Left: Curtis and Ann Long of Briarwood Angus Farms, Butler, Mo., bid \$65,000 Jan. 11 to purchase the 2012 Angus Foundation Heifer. Pictured after the purchase are (from left), Kelli Retallick and JanLee Rowlett, NJAA directors; Clifford and Jennifer Simmons, Omega Farms, contending bidders; David Warfield of Briarwood Angus Farms; Bryce Schumann, American Angus Association CEO; Ben Eggers, Lee Ann Sydenstricker-Fusz and Blake Briscoe, Sydenstricker Genetics; Lindsey Grimes, NJAA Foundation director; Curtis Long, Briarwood Angus Farms, buyer; Connie and Eddie Sydenstricker, donors; Cathy Watkins, Angus Foundation Board chairman; Clay Williams, Megan Ahearn and Sally Yon, NJAA directors; Kim Sydenstricker-Monte, Sydenstricker Genetics; and Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president.

Thank You Goes a Long Way

When is the last time you have thanked your parents for all they do; an advisor for the time they have given; or a sponsor for making an award possible? How many times have you said thank you this week — yesterday or today?

As a Director, I find myself many times sitting at my desk writing thank-you notes to various supporters, speakers and planners of events. Some people may think it is a daunting, unimportant task, but it is one of the greatest feelings in the world to get a hand-written thank you note from a junior after an event.

However, if you have trouble finding the right words, here are five tips to help.

Five Tips for Writing Thank-you Cards:

1. Be timely. I know you have all heard the saying, "Better late than never." However, when sending out thank you notes try to send them out no later than two weeks after the event. This shows that you are truly grateful for the support you have been given. The week after I attend an event, show or conference, I make a list of names and schedule a time to sit down and write thank-you cards to all the people who made it possible.
2. Don't Start with "Thank you for the..." Even though it is tempting to start with those for words, try to avoid them. Starting with that phrase makes your thank-you note sound boring, unoriginal and generic. Instead, try to start out with saying something about your award, gift or

scholarship you received. It will make it sound more well thought out and the reader will feel more appreciated.

3. Make it personal. I know at times it may seem like you sound like a broken record, but try to enhance your thank-you note by adding some personal thoughts. For example, if you received a scholarship, tell the reader how you will use the money in your education, or what area of study you are seeking.
4. Take your time. Although I am sure you have many things to accomplish in a day, do not rush your thank-you notes. Take time to write nicely, proofread for any errors, and if you make a mistake — start over. Be conscious of the person you are writing to. For instance, if you are sending a thank-you card after an interview process, you want to make sure it looks professional; sloppy handwriting and misspelled words will not do.
5. Cover all the basics. When composing a thank-you card, it should contain five important parts: a greeting—Dear Mr. Jones, express your gratitude, discuss use, give grace—Thank you again for..., and regards—Sincerely, Name. If you include these five things, your thank you will be a hit.

It is very important we thank all the people who support us in our lives. The National Junior Angus Association is filled with young people who succeed and accomplish their goals. Do not forget the people who have helped us get there and rewarded us when we did.

—by Lindsey Grimes

Fun & Games During Down Time

*I*t seems impossible to spend time at a stock show without having some down time. You see juniors from across the country at the NJAS working hard with their cattle, but what about the time in-between hanging out with friends? Listed below are a few ideas on how you can spend your free time with friends and family when you're not working the cattle!

Card games are always fun, there are many that range from one to four or more players. Do some searching online to find out the rules of a few games. Then remember to keep a deck or two in the show box. Try to find some that you don't mind getting lost or dirty, because it's bound to happen!

Cookouts are a great way to bring people together and socialize. Make sure to read up on the rules of the barn so you don't break any of them. Some barns have strict rules about food or cooking equipment. A slow cooker meal or sandwiches — something that doesn't require too much equipment — is a great way to prepare your meal without neglecting your cattle.

Homemade games stored in the truck bed or trailer are fun and easy to get involved with. Building a bean bag game and making simple rules up is a fast way to attract a crowd and meet new faces. Washer boards and ball games are also popular among big groups of people. Set up a small competition or tournament to really make it exciting!

Outdoor sports are easy to play when



PHOTO BY CARRIE GILLIAM

the weather permits. Bring along a ball or Frisbee and see if you can find space to play in. Remember to always be conscious of the animals and respect the space they and their owners want. Avoid playing near tie-outs or stalls, and move to a parking lot or open area. Be careful of the balls you bring because they can easily cause damage — Nerf® products or other soft-made items are great for this purpose.

With these suggestions you won't be sitting around waiting for the next event or show. Other options are to catch up on homework, read or listen to music. But always try to mingle with other juniors, too!

— by Megan Ahearn



PHOTO BY KATIE GAZDA





Ambassador Program

The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) is pleased to offer a new and exciting opportunity — the NJAA Ambassador Program. The ambassador will serve the Angus breed for one year attending several educational conferences to gain experience about the beef industry that can't be offered anywhere else. Listed below are program details.

Ambassador's Role: One junior member will support the production of the Angus breed and the consumption of Angus beef on a national and international level through learning at various educational conferences and seminars throughout one year.

Eligibility: American Angus Association® members who are 17-20 years of age (as of Jan. 1), are a current member, in good standing of the American Angus Association (junior, life or regular), and own purebred Angus cattle.

Application: Submit a cover letter, personal résumé (two page maximum), and answer the following questions: (1) Describe your Angus background and livestock experience. (2) What characteristics do you possess that qualifies you to be the ambassador? The questions cannot exceed the one-page maximum and requires a 10 point font minimum for each question.

Application Deadline: Applications must be postmarked by June 15, 2012. Please send applications to American Angus Association, Attn: Junior Activities 3201 Frederick Ave. St. Joseph, MO 64506.

Interview Process: The top five finalists selected will visit the American Angus Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo. and present a 12-15 minute seminar on a relevant topic in the beef industry to staff and judges. After the seminar is finished, finalists will have five minutes to answer questions from the floor.

Ambassador Events: The ambassador will attend the following events, but is not limited to only these events: American Angus Association orientation and finalist selection, Saint Joseph, Mo., in August or September 2012; National Angus Conference and Tour, Wichita, Kan., Oct. 2-5, 2012; *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) building blocks training, Wooster, Ohio, January 2013, NCBA Cattle Industry Annual Convention, Tampa, Fla., Feb. 6-9, 2013; and Guiding Outstanding Angus Leaders (GOAL) Conference, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, Feb.16-18, 2013.

For more information about the ambassador program, contact Robin Ruff, director of junior activities, at rruff@angus.org or 816-383-5100. We are excited to bring you this incredible learning and networking opportunity sponsored by the Angus Foundation.

Find a Summer Internship

Are you a college sophomore, junior or senior? Summer internships are vital to obtain the job of your dreams after graduation. Not only do these opportunities give you the work experience to put you a step ahead of your competitors when interviewing, but also are fun with a first-hand look at how the industry you want to be a part of works.

The 2011 NJAA summer intern, Emily Moore of Jerseyville, Ill., helped with the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) contests, planning Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference and assisting at the NJAS.

She says she learned how important organizational skills are when running a national organization, especially during event and show planning.

"I would do it again in a heartbeat," Moore says.

Another key factor to obtain an internship is some companies only hire previous interns; this limits you to a selective list when applying for jobs.

Internships allow companies to know your work ethic and the type of employee you could be.

Not only do internships provide experience, but also industry contacts that you can later use for professional advice and recommendations.

But none of this will matter if you don't get involved. The first step is to get on company websites and look up their internship opportunities, or head out to your college's career fair with a stack of resumes. Never be intimidated walking up to these professionals — they are here to talk to students. They are more than happy to answer questions and are excited you are actively interested in their company.

Good luck in your search and happy hunting!

— by Jennifer Ewing

ATTENTION

Will you be attending school in the fall?

Visit the Angus Foundation website at www.angusfoundation.org for more information about scholarships offered for undergraduate and graduate students. Please note that the deadline is May 1, 2012.

Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards

Would you like to be recognized for your achievements in the NJAA program? Fill out the bronze and silver award Application and receive national recognition for your hard work. Applications can be found on the NJAA website www.njaa.info.

60 Years of Supporting Juniors

2012 marks the 60th anniversary of the American Angus Auxiliary, chartered in 1952, its purpose and mission was for women Angus breeders and wives of Angus breeders to get better acquainted, to aide in promoting the breed and to present awards to deserving youth showing Aberdeen-Angus projects. While the way the words stated in our current mission may differ to reflect



current times, the basic mission and goals are the same. The Auxiliary is a group of women dedicated to the present and future of the Angus breed, Angus breeders and juniors involved in the industry.

The members of the American Angus Auxiliary work tirelessly to uphold our mission; the encouragement and recognition of junior Angus members' take top priority. Four years before the junior activities department of the American Angus Association was formed and 28 years prior to the official beginning of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) in 1980, the Auxiliary began its mission of recognizing the achievements of Angus youth.

Our oldest continuous program, the prestigious Silver Pitcher award presentation started in 1953 at the Chicago International Stock Show. A silver pitcher was presented to honor a young lady excelling in showing achievements. The award presentation was moved to the North American Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in 1975 and '76 before finding its current home at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). In 1993, the recognition expanded to include young men.

In 1956, the scholarship program was established with a \$100 donation. The Auxiliary awarded its first scholarship of \$300 in 1957. In the early years, the scholarship program was only for girls, the boys division was added in 1970. Today's practice of awarding scholarships to five girls and five boys began in 1985.

In 1967, the Auxiliary was asked by the American Angus Association to help select a National Angus Queen. The first-place scholarship winner was crowned the National Angus Queen. The name was changed to Miss American Angus in 1973. The year 1980 began the tradition of holding a contest with five top girl-scholarship winners eligible to compete.

The Auxiliary presented an engraved silver bowl to the first place National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest winner during the inaugural contest in 1967. In 1969, the Auxiliary began presenting bowls to the top five finishers — that practice continues today.

The Auxiliary continued its mission of recognition of junior Angus accomplishments and introduced the Crystal Award presentation in 1999, honoring one boy and one girl that excel in educational contest participation at the NJAS.

The popular All American Certified Angus Beef® Cook-Off contest began in 1983 and has grown to be one of the largest non-showing competitions at the NJAS. The Auxiliary also has a recognition program for juniors that excel in showing, leadership and educational contests on district, state or national levels; the Certificate of Achievement application is open to all NJAA members. The Auxiliary is also responsible for several other memorial awards presented at NJAS including the Cook-Off's Black Kettle Award, LEAD Awards, as well as the Grote and Spader awards in the extemporaneous speaking contest.

The junior Angus program and NJAA members are always in the forefront of the mission of the American Angus Auxiliary. To find out more about the Auxiliary and its junior recognition programs visit www.angusauxiliary.com.

— Anne Lampe, American Angus Auxiliary President



The first Auxiliary luncheon took place at the Palmer House in Chicago Dec. 3, 1952.

Win Like a Champion, Lose Like a Champion

The first lesson my parents taught me — the first time I ever took hold of a halter — was to always be a good winner and an even better loser. They told me that I must always play fair because victories are always so much sweeter when you do it the right way. In my opinion, those with good sportsmanship are the real winners in the ring. I know I am just as competitive as the next person, but I feel like good showing etiquette means more than any purple banner.

Here are five simple pointers on how to be polite:

1. Always leave enough space between your calf and others. There is nothing more frustrating than being squeezed out of your spot and being run into by calves on either side of you. Leaving enough room is a win for everyone, even the judge!
2. If the animal in front of you stops, give the animal in front of you a gentle nudge. But remember, no jabs or big swings with your stick. We want to keep animals moving, not start a rodeo.



Above: Taylor Adcock (left) and Ty Bayer congratulate each other after the showmanship contest at the 2011 NJAS.

PHOTO BY CARRIE GILLIAM

3. Use the whole showing and stay in line. Standing in the middle of the showing will get you noticed, but not in a good way.
4. The hard work should be done at home. Please don't try to break your calf at the show.
5. Most importantly, always tell the winners congratulations with a handshake. You know you would appreciate the same in return if the roles were reversed.

— by Lindsey Grimes

Let's Give a Warm Welcome to Tonya Amen

A new member has joined the team at the American Angus Association®. Tonya Amen will be working with Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) as the Genetic Service Director, for education and promotional efforts related to Angus genetics. She is originally from Sterling, Colo., and obtained her B.S. in animal science from Texas Tech. She later went on to acquire her M.S. and Ph.D. in animal breeding from Texas A&M.

After graduation, Amen taught animal breeding, beef production, genetics and other courses in



the animal science department at University of Wisconsin–River Falls. During this time, she was active with Young Producer's Council for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). Before coming to the Association, Amen worked for Pfizer Animal Genetics in the southeastern U.S.

She currently resides in Athens, Ga., but has plans to move to Saint Joseph in the end of May. Amen said that one of the greatest things with today's technology is that she can currently do most of her work

via computer, and thus can be done from just about anywhere. There will also be a fair bit of travel associated with her job, so being close to several large airports is a definite advantage until she moves.

Amen grew up with cattle, horses, sheep and Border collie dogs. She was very active in 4-H and FFA in her earlier years. Her current travel and living arrangements do not allow for any animals, but she hopes one day to raise livestock again.

When Amen isn't traveling for work or other organizations, she loves hiking, cooking and collecting records. Last fall she was able to visit London, and thoroughly enjoyed her experience there.

— by Alisha Nord

Elections, Elections, Elections

Well, it's that time again — the presidential candidates are everywhere. Whether it's yard signs, TV commercials, radio ads, phone calls, or ads in the newspaper — the race is on and we all know it. Sometimes I wonder why people are interested in running for political office, and why they want the responsibilities.

Looking to the future, what will happen to our country, or in our case, our Angus organizations, if a candidate doesn't contain the same virtues as most producers, like a good work ethic, high morals, and the ability to make sound decisions?

The job is high pressure and certainly not easy; but the candidates are no different than you and I. No matter what age you are, there are leadership opportunities for everyone, whether it's 4-H, FFA, a state Angus Association or the NJAA.

But why take the time to run for these positions? Well the answer is simple — a leadership position helps prepare you for the real world and gives you a better understanding of working well with others, while teaching youth to communicate, cooperate and make decisions. These are skills that are important in school and in any job.

No matter what type of position you are seeking, there are ways to prepare. The Raising the Bar conference allows preparation for state Junior Angus Association elections. Another way to prepare is to define your capabilities and be able to express what you have to offer that will make you a valuable leader. Everyone has their own strengths; they just need to find them, utilize them and let others know your plans for success.

After elections, whether you received the desired position or not, the outcome will allow you to gain lifelong skills that are useful for many years to come. By serving as a leader, you are held accountable and people will depend on your ability to be an effective leader. An effective leader is honest, sincere, has an attitude of service and is willing to work with others who are different than themselves.

As young Angus enthusiasts, I encourage you all to make goals, whether it's a beginning goal, like running for an office in your local 4-H club, or a longer term goal to wear a green jacket — you can make it happen.

Do you believe any presidential candidates set a goal to be a part of the NJAA? Probably not, and that's where youth in agriculture play a



role. Organizations like NJAA or 4-H allow you to take leadership positions and become the voice for agriculture, which needs to be heard.

Take a step of commitment for something you are passionate about — step up and lead. There is so much you can learn about yourself, while gaining skills that will be valuable for the rest of your life.

— by Sally Yon

Careers in Ag

Growing up in the cattle industry means so much more than just raising cows. Think of all the opportunities you present to other people involved in different aspects of the agricultural industry. From feed salesmen to a custom harvesting crew, depending on your location and resources available to you, your operation could have an effect on all of these.

Take for instance, a feed salesman, whether you buy show calf feed in a 50 lb. bag, or modified distillers grain by the semi load, the salesman is out there to provide the most cost effective feedstuffs for your show cattle.

Take the crop-seed dealer — who comes knocking every year in late winter or early spring — the product you purchase from the dealer will ultimately harvest and feed your family and cattle, and will most likely be safe and profitable, just as it has been for so many years before.

What if you are not set up to harvest your crops every year? Good thing custom harvest crews are available for hire. Covering almost every region of the U.S., these crews roll into a

field armed with the most up-to-date and advanced equipment on the market. Combines, tractors and auger wagons, semis and transport vehicles, it's like a circus but efficient and minus the screaming kids!

And last but definitely not least, the average American consumer. You may be asking yourself, how does some "city-slicker" fit into this mix, well to me it's rather easy.

Planting crops, taking care of our cattle and attending meetings are all to ensure a safe and nutritious product for the consumer.

The consumer, no matter what demographic, is just as much a part of the agriculture industry as you and I. Without consumers, why would the farmer be concerned in raising a high-quality piece of meat like Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®); and who would take advantage of the safe and efficient enhance crops?

So remember next time you see someone buy a CAB Chuck Roast at the meat counter, they in a way, are an agriculturalist too!

— by Austin Brandt



DIRECTIONS



NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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Nonprofit Org.
US Postage Paid
St. Joseph, MO
Permit No. 2017

Important Dates and Deadlines for Juniors

MAY 2012

- 1 Deadline for Gold Award applications
- 1 Outstanding Leadership Award applications due
- 1 Ownership & Entry deadline Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show
- 1 CAB/NJAA scholarship applications due
- 1 Angus Foundation scholarship applications due
- 15 Ownership & Entry deadline Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show
- 24-27 Atlantic National Junior Angus Show, Timonium, Md.

JUNE 2012

- 1 Ownership & Entry deadline National Junior Angus Show
- 1 Entry deadline for NJAA Creative Writing, NJAA/

- AJ Photography, and NJAA Graphic Design Contests
- 1 Entry & Recipe deadline for All-American Certified Angus Beef® Cook-Off
- 1 Ownership deadline American Angus Breeders Futurity Junior Angus Show
- 1 NJAA Board Candidates information due
- 10 Deadline for NJAA Public Speaking Contest speech outlines

- 10 Deadline for Career Development Resumes
- 15 Deadline for submitting names of state delegates and showmanship contestants for NJAA elections
- 15 LEAD registrations due (early registration deadline)
- 14-16 Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Filer, Idaho
- 15-17 The American Breeders'

Futurity Junior Preview Show, Louisville, Ky.

21-24 Eastern Regional, Timonium, Md.

JULY 2012

- 15 LEAD registration deadline
- 15-21 National Junior Angus Show, Louisville, Ky.

AUGUST 2012

- 2-5 LEAD Conference, Co.

NJAA Board Candidates

Please note that your application is due into the American Angus Association office on June 1.

2012 LEAD Conference

Sign up early and save money! Please note that after June 15 the rate increase on registration fees for junior members attending LEAD. Please remember that space is limited.