

# DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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Spring 2019



# ANGUS:

## LIVE FROM NASHVILLE!

# Chairman's Perspective

## Dealing with No

**N**o! It's a two-year-old's favorite word and one of the most detrimental phrases to the ego. It's certainly not what you want to hear when you are expecting "yes." I recently faced a "no" in my life. A bit frustrated with the situation at hand, I turned to the one and only person who could truly help me — the Big Man himself. After a couple days of prayer, I found a devotional on the YouVersion *Bible App* called "Dealing with God's No." The first day covered "Because I said So," then "Prayer and Trust," and finally "God Knows." I would like to share my perspective and the impact that these readings had for me.

How many of you grew up with strict parents? If you are like me, there were some house rules that must be followed. When I asked why I had to follow those rules, the answer was always, "Because I said so." Every time it stopped my questioning. I mean, how can you argue with that? Of course, I still didn't want to do the chore, but because Mom and Dad said so, it had to be done. Much like the

house rules that had to be followed, there are things we must do and go through simply because God said so. Each one gives us the opportunity to grow and achieve the next step.



Sydnee Gerken

Although at the time I didn't see the need for or appreciate the strict guidelines, I now understand their meaning. There are times that we won't understand that initial "no," but in time a greater purpose will be revealed.

In the situation where you were hoping for "yes," but instead got that unfavorable two-letter word, what do you do? Like I mentioned above, I find the most comfort in prayer. However, the next part is where I struggle. Trust. Knowing that my prayers have been heard and an answer will be given. Isn't it silly that we trust in God enough to pray to him, but fail to maintain that trust through the answer? It's at this point where we have to take a step back, breath and remember that He has the master plan. Once we change our attitude towards prayer and trust, it is easier to see that, most of the time, what we pray for is actually not what we need. His "no" is saving us from pain, heartbreak and unneeded worries.

God says no because God knows. Have you ever truly considered this? I tell you what, I read that and it stopped me in my tracks. It's got to be one of the simplest phrases I've read, but it hit home. Sometimes we become so entwined in the things we think we want, we forget we are not in the driver's seat. The road gets a bit rough and curvy when we doubt that. In this case pride is the biggest culprit. Being too proud to ask for help or accept what is happening only slows down the process. Again, change your view of the situation and find it in your heart to be more willing and receptive to His plan.

"No" is okay. Honestly, there are times that we need to hear it. However, never let "no" define you. Just because your New Year resolution isn't going how you expected or your heifer didn't do as well as you had hoped, don't give up. There are still 330+ days to make that resolution a reality and there are always more shows to look forward to. Keep your heads held high and keep on trucking. I'm so proud of each of you and cannot wait to see the plans in store for you!

— by Sydnee Gerken, chairwoman

### NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### TERMS UP IN 2019

**SYDNEE GERKEN, Okla., chairman,** [sydneegerken@gmail.com](mailto:sydneegerken@gmail.com)  
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**HAYLEY DEHAAN, Ore., communications director,** [dehaan0@purdue.edu](mailto:dehaan0@purdue.edu)  
**DAWSON DAL PORTO, Calif., Foundation director,** [dawsondp@aol.com](mailto:dawsondp@aol.com)  
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**JERA PIPKIN, Mo., membership director,** [jera.pipkin@okstate.edu](mailto:jera.pipkin@okstate.edu)

#### TERMS UP IN 2020

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**BAXTER KNAPP, Iowa,** [baxter.knapp@gmail.com](mailto:baxter.knapp@gmail.com)

# Angus Foundation Heifer Package Recap

- 1) Who donated the advance reproductive technology package for the buyer of the heifer?
- 2) Since the inception of the event, the Angus Foundation Heifer Package has raised more than \_\_\_\_\_ million dollars.
- 3) What part of the Angus Foundation mission goes toward enhancing the Angus and the beef cattle industry?
- 4) Who donated the 2019 Foundation Heifer?
- 5) Who is the sire of the 2019 Foundation Heifer?
- 6) Free transportation to the buyer's ranch is offered by \_\_\_\_\_ Transportation.
- 7) Where was the heifer sold?
- 8) American \_\_\_\_\_ Insurance provides free insurance for 30 days.
- 9) The funds from the heifer and the pregnancies go to support the \_\_\_\_\_.



- 10) Who purchased the 2019 Foundation Heifer?
- 11) Who are the generous individuals that make the Angus Foundation's mission possible?
- 12) Born in Nebraska, where will the heifer now reside?
- 13) What is the name of this year's Foundation Heifer?
- 14) How many pregnancies were sold during the National Western Angus Bull Sale event?

Funds raised from this prestigious event go toward unrestricted funds to help plan educational events for both junior and adult members and research efforts to further advance the Angus breed. On behalf of the National Junior Angus Board of Directors, thank you to all who donated or purchased an Angus Foundation Lot in the National Western Angus Bull Sale.

— by *Dawson Dal Porto*, director

(Key on page 11)



Story continued from cover:

# Let's Get to MOOving in Music City!

## Angus: Live From Nashville – LEAD 2019

Are y'all ready to visit God's country and get your honky-tonk boot stomp on? I hope so, because in 2019, we are very excited to host our Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference in Nashville, Tenn.! We have tons of activities planned to keep you energized, from the bright lights of Nashville's history to the unique agriculture of Tennessee. We might take a trip down to "The Show That Made Country Music Famous," and who knows, we might even get to see a country music show. You never know what could go down in the city of Nashville, but I am confident you will not want to miss what will be one of the best LEAD conferences yet!

The weekend will be filled with games, experiencing the city of Nashville and, most importantly, Angus cattle! The conference will be hosted Aug. 1-4, 2019. Make sure to register at [angus.org/njaa](http://angus.org/njaa) as soon as you can to spend the fun weekend with us. Early registration is due June 15 and late registration is due July 15 if space is available. The LEAD conference in Music City will be legendary, and we can't express how excited we are for it. So, make sure to pack your cowboy boots, and we hope to see y'all Live from Nashville!

— by Brody Fitzgerald, leadership director



## Embrace Every Moment: Enjoy the Journey

The hustle and bustle of the National Junior Angus Show is something that takes us all by storm. Whether it's packing for the granddaddy of them all, memorizing lines for your contest parts or picking the perfect outfit to wear on show day, nothing compares to the great reward we, as Angus juniors, feel when junior national week arrives. Yet, how do we make the most of it?

I remember some of my busiest weeks at NJAS. When I was a junior, I participated in nearly every contest, showed at least four head and still made time for friends throughout the week. Regardless of the "extra" time I didn't have, I chose to embrace every moment. When I was Miss American Angus, I chose to not do any contests, showed fewer cattle and focused more on interacting with the young ladies within the breed. I chose to soak it up. Now, as an NJAA director, the NJAS is busier than ever before. With contests to plan, events to attend, the ring to work and people to see, it's nice to look back and enjoy the journey.

Junior nationals looks different for every person, and there is nothing that says one way is the best way. Regardless, find your niche and go for it! If you love contests, tackle them with courage. Believe in yourself. Regardless of how stressed out you get, you will make it through! If you have a lot to show, relax, take a deep breath and stick to win. Be competitive, fierce and never give up. If you are there just to enjoy the week, take every opportunity you can to get better. Embrace every moment. Soak it up. Enjoy the journey. The National Junior Angus Show is the most anticipated week of the year and I challenge you to make it your best yet.

— by Jera Pipkin, membership director





## Running for the Junior Board

It is no secret that being on the National Junior Angus Board of Directors (NJAB) is a prestigious opportunity. Even running for the NJAB is a rewarding experience. To run for the NJAB, you should set goals to achieve as you outline your final years in the National Junior Angus Association.

The first step is to be nominated and elected by your respective junior state associations as the sole representative from your state. Then your state advisor(s) will notify the Events and Education Department of your candidacy. On May 1, you will receive a confirmation letter and application, which includes a cover letter, résumé and five short-answer questions. When you answer the questions, make sure you direct your answers to your prospective audience, the delegates.

Excitement begins upon arrival at the National Junior Angus Show. This is also when the hectic part begins. You will put in a lot of miles walking through the barn talking with candidates and juniors getting to know them on a more personal level. For me, this was the most rewarding experience throughout the week. The night of the NJAA Annual Meeting, you will have to give a speech, answer an industry question and a character question, and participate in roundtable questions. As the week comes to an end, your anxiety level may rise as you wait for all the award winners to be announced and learn your fate during Closing Ceremonies.

I highly recommend running for the junior board. It is very rewarding, and I gained so many lifelong friends by being a junior board member. Throughout the last two years, I have gotten the opportunity to travel the country representing the Angus breed alongside my best friends and fellow junior board members. One of my favorite parts was being selected as the North Dakota candidate and running for the junior board. I have loved representing my state as the third North Dakotan on the NJAB.

— by *Madison Sundsbak, vice chairman*

# The Responsibilities of a Delegate

Each year during the National Junior Angus Show, the National Junior Angus Association Annual Meeting presents an important task before junior delegates. Delegates are given the opportunity to determine the leadership within the NJAA for the next two years.

A state can send no more than two delegates to the Annual Meeting each year to assist with the selection process of the new six NJAB directors. Merely attending the annual meeting is not the only delegate responsibility. Throughout the entire week, junior board candidates will be involved in various contests, meeting juniors of all sorts and talking to the delegates from each state. Speaking from personal experience, as both a delegate and candidate, this is one of the best parts of the week. Having that opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones makes the week go by way too fast each year.

As delegates, you should want candidates to get to know you better and to carry on a conversation — maybe you will have a new friend by the end of the week. Delegates should be prepared for the week and for all the attention they are going to receive from the candidates. Make sure you read the résumés and applications of each of the candidates. You will be more familiar with the candidates, especially the ones you don't know already, and will be able to start a conversation when they visit with you. Don't forget to attend the voting ceremony to determine the next set of leaders.

Being a delegate is such an accomplishment to all who receive this opportunity and it should not be taken lightly. There are many juniors who would take this opportunity in a heartbeat. Future delegates, take into consideration the responsibilities we have discussed.

— by *Caroline Cowles, director*

Key for Angus History crossword, page 9:

Down: 1) Auxiliary; 2) Moczygemba; 3) George Grant; 4) Foundation; 6) Scotland; 13) Thirteen.  
Across: 5) Longhorns; 7) Fifty-first; 8) Wooster; 9) Polled; 10) CAB; 11) Angus; 12) Saint Joseph.



# Retiring Memories

Over the past one and a half years, Sydnee Gerken, Madison Sundsbak, Hayley DeHaan, Brody Fitzgerald, Dawson Dal Porto and Jera Pipkin have dedicated their time and effort to better the National Junior Angus Association. They have been part of new ideas like the auctioneering contest, State of the Year and the NJAA App. Serving on the board with them, I can safely say that these six men and women are some of the most hardworking, caring and genuine people I have had the privilege to meet. They work tirelessly behind the scenes to make this Association the best that it can be.

I can remember going to shows at a young age and seeing their faces around. They were all so nice to me when I was new to the NJAA, and seeing them spread that same compassion to the entire NJAA is a sight to see. I asked each of them a simple question. What has been your favorite part about serving on the National Junior Angus Board of Directors? Here is what they had to say.



**Sydnee Gerken:** "I've loved the opportunity that I've gotten to travel across the states. It's pretty cool to see where our juniors call home."



**Madison Sundsbak:** "My favorite part of being on the National Junior Angus Board has been traveling the country with my best friends, representing the Angus breed, and getting to create new friends while seeing old ones."



**Brody Fitzgerald:** “My favorite part about serving on this junior board has been creating opportunity for Angus juniors to achieve whatever they set their minds to. Fueling Angus juniors’ confidence to believe in themselves has been one of the most memorable experiences serving as a national junior board member!”



**Dawson Dal Porto:** “My favorite thing about being on the junior board is having friends from all across the country, and we’re all brought together because of the cattle industry.”



**Hayley DeHaan:** “My favorite part of serving the board was the opportunity to travel to new places and meet junior members. There is nothing like being able to help others pursue what they are passionate about.”



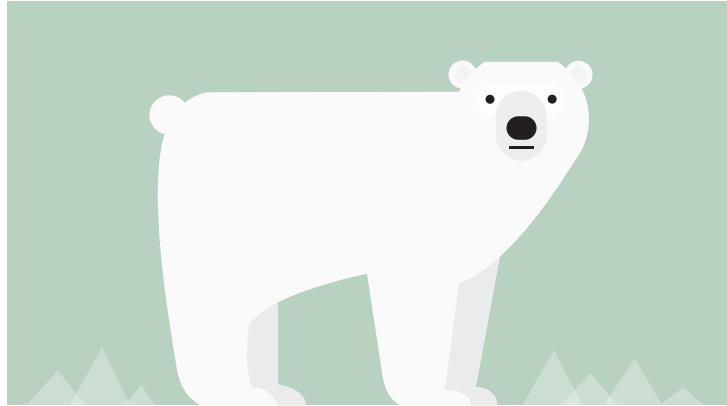
**Jera Pipkin:** “My favorite part has been being able to interact with the junior membership. I love helping to ignite their fire and passion for Angus cattle, all while serving the association that has truly shaped me into the young woman I am today.”

As you can see, each person has taken something away from their time while serving on the board. We can’t thank them all enough for what they have brought to the table and done for the National Junior Angus Association!

— *by Dylan Denny, director*

## Scholarships

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



## How Much Does A Polar Bear Weigh?

Often we hear the question, “How much does a polar bear weigh?,” and we usually respond with, “Enough to break the ice!” But we all know there is more than one way to break the ice, just like there is more than one way to meet new people.

When it comes to getting junior members involved and interacting with one another, ice breakers are a great way to have some fun. Ice breakers are small, interactive games where kids and adults can break into groups and have some fun while learning each other’s names.

Whether it’s at the start of a show, meeting or small conference, ice breakers are a crucial part of the event’s success. I can remember times early in my junior membership being at a brand-new place where I knew absolutely no one. Ice breakers helped me get over my nerves and allowed me to meet some of my closest friends today. The games don’t have to be big, extravagant or hugely detailed, but they should be a quick, fun and an easy way for everyone to get acquainted. I think if you participate in such ice breakers, you will find it doesn’t take much to break the ice at all.

— by *Baxter Knapp, director*

## Does Your State Have What It Takes?

Ever feel like all of your efforts go unnoticed? Like you are working hard with no recognition? Here is your chance to change that! The NJAA offers the State of the Year Award for state associations that go above and beyond for their juniors. This is a great way to receive recognition for the hard work put in all year long.

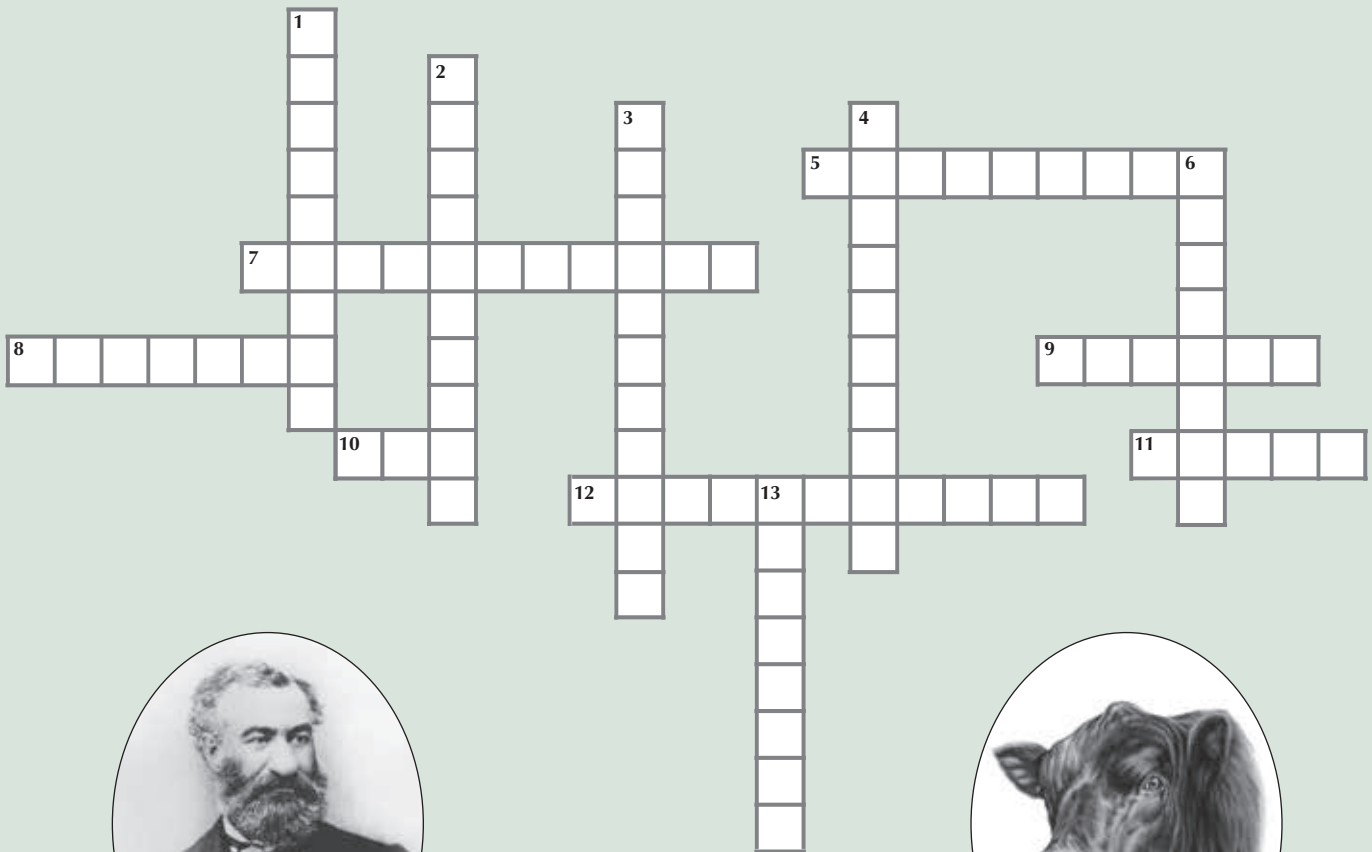
The State of the Year Award provides an opportunity for states of all sizes to showcase the unique events and successes of their organization. Unlike the sweepstakes program at the National Junior Angus Show, this evaluates state associations activities subjectively based on events throughout the year. The size of the state compared to the number of participants is considered during the evaluations of applications giving every state, big or small, an equal opportunity.

When completing the application, do not hesitate to provide additional information and photos to highlight every activity that sets your state apart. This is your chance to compete among the best junior organizations in the country. The application for this prestigious award is due July 1, and the winner will be announced at the National Junior Angus Show in Louisville, Ky. Good luck!

— by *Keegan Cassady, director*



# ANGUS HISTORY



## ACROSS

5. When first brought to the United States, Angus bulls were used on what breed of cattle?
7. This year will be the \_\_\_\_ annual NJAS
8. What city has the *Certified Angus Beef*® brand's headquarters?
9. When cattle are born without horns
10. Most profitable branded-beef program in the world
11. The Business Breed
12. What city has the American Angus Association headquarters?

## DOWN

1. The American Angus \_\_\_\_\_ runs the Miss American Angus program.
2. CEO of the American Angus Association
3. Brought Angus to the United States
4. The Angus \_\_\_\_\_ awards hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships to NJAA members each year
6. Country of origin of the Angus breed
13. Cattle have how many pairs of ribs?

— by *Grady Dickerson, director*



## Why Should You Get BQA Certified?

**A**cross the beef industry, the message is clear. Good management practices lead to a consistent and high-quality product, which leads to a higher return. The Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program aims to set an industry-wide standard on basic good management practices by offering a course to teach how better management can yield better herd performance.

So why should you get certified, especially if you already have a working management system in place? According to *BEEF Magazine*, companies such as Tyson, Greater Omaha and Cargill are all implementing requirements for 90% to 100% of their beef supply to come from BQA-certified facilities starting Jan. 1, 2019.

While the general consumer may not be yet aware of what BQA means, major companies do and these businesses are requesting it. As producers, it is our responsibility to continue to educate ourselves on how to best raise our herds to meet consumer demands. As young agriculturalists, it is our job to ensure we are equipped to handle the demands of future consumers.

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*Carcass steer exhibitors are now required to be BQA- or YQCA-certified.*

It is relatively easy to get online certified through the Beef Quality of Assurance program or the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA). YQCA is a multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8-21 with focus on food safety, animal well-being and character development. Both programs are available online at [www.bqa.org/](http://www.bqa.org/) and <http://yqca.org/>, respectively.

Regardless of the program you choose that best fits you and your operation, both ensure safety and well-being of animals and a safe food supply to consumers.

— by Hayley DeHaan, communications director



# Opportunities Within an Industry

For many, planning for the future can become about as stressful as anything we might face. Thoughts come to mind such as, “Am I in the right place?” or “Is this really what I want to do for the rest of my life?” We must try hard not to overthink these questions, because, in reality, it is a lot simpler than we make it out to be. Simply find what you have a passion for and follow that path in life.

Personally, I am a sophomore pursuing an agricultural business degree and plan to one-day return home to the family farm. However, I also would not pass

*Simply find what you have a passion for and follow that path in life.*

up a chance to try something new before I do that. I know that the opportunities that are in front of me are truly never-ending. I could apply for numerous internships within the livestock industry. This will only help further my personal knowledge of the industry whether that be in nutrition or simply skills in sales. I could also find another job to help make more connections

for the future. These connections will help me take steps in the right direction to help my business succeed.

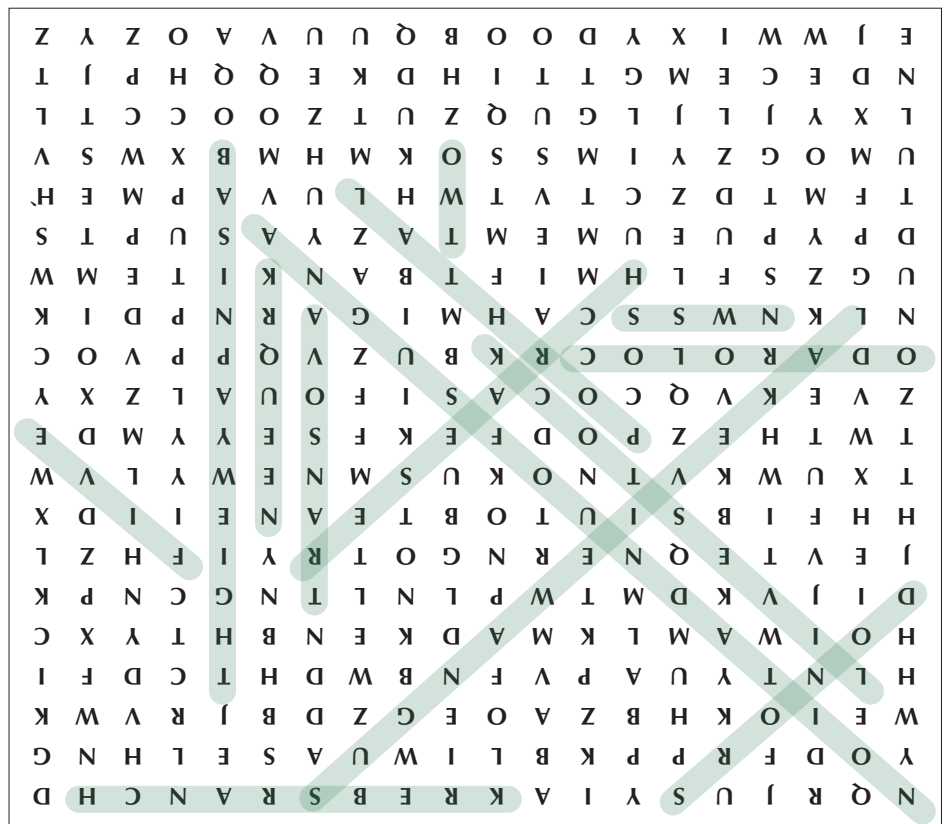
Countless opportunities await each of us, and I encourage everyone to take advantage of whatever comes your way. Each opportunity presented is a chance for you to move forward in your skill set and knowledge to thrive. Set goals and work toward what you are passionate about, but welcome opportunities and take chances. These things can lead you to something great!

— by Tyler Bush, director

## AAA Login Online Contest Portal

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

Key to Angus Foundation Heifer Package Recap on page 3



(1) TRANSOVA; (2) TWO; (3) RESEARCH; (4) KREBS RANGH; (5) BASIN PAYWEIGHT 1682; (6) LATHROP; (7) NWSS; (8) LIVESTOCK; (9) ANGLUS FOUNDATION; (10) LAKEVIEW ANGUS; (11) DONORS; (12) COLORADO; (13) KR QUEEN 8213; (14) FIVE

# DIRECTIONS

NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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## Important Dates and Deadlines for Juniors

### APRIL 2019

- 12-14 Western Regional and Phenotype & Genotype Show, Reno, Nev.
- 15 Ownership & entry deadline for the Atlantic National Jr. Angus Show

### MAY 2019

- 1 Deadline for Gold Award applications
- 1 Outstanding Leadership award applications due
- 1 Ownership & entry deadline for American Angus Breeder's Futurity
- 1 Ownership & entry deadline for Eastern Regional Jr. Angus Show

- and Phenotype & Genotype Show
- 1 Ownership & entry deadline Northwest Regional Preview Jr. Angus Show
- 1 CAB/NJAA scholarship applications due
- 1 Angus Foundation scholarship applications due
- 15 Ownership & early entry deadline for National Junior Angus Show
- 15 Entry deadline for NJAA Creative Writing, NJAA/*Angus Journal* Photography, and NJAA Graphic Design Contests
- 15 Entry & recipe deadline for All-

- American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off
- 25 Deadline for NJAA Public Speaking Contest speech outlines
- 25 Deadline for Career Development Contest Résumés
- 25 Late entry deadline National Junior Angus Show (online only)
- 24-26 Atlantic National Jr. Angus Show, Timonium, Md.

### JUNE 2019

- 1 NJAA Board candidate information due
- 1 Deadline for submitting names

- of state delegates and showmanship contestants for NJAA elections
- 14-16 All American Breeder's Futurity, Louisville, Ky.
- 15 LEAD registrations due (early registration deadline)
- 20-23 Eastern Regional Jr. Angus Show and Phenotype & Genotype Show, Timonium, Md.

### JULY 2019

- 14-20 National Junior Angus Show, Louisville, Ky.
- 15 LEAD registration deadline

### AUGUST 2019

- 1-4 LEAD Conference, Nashville, Tenn.

### SEPTEMBER 2019

- 1 Angus Ambassador applications due

