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American Angus Association®
To find a regional manager in your area and more information, visit:
www.angus.org
Phone: 816-383-5100

National Junior Angus Association
For details regarding junior programs, visit:
www.njaa.info
E-mail: info@njaa.info

Angus Foundation
For more information on scholarships and awards, visit:
www.angusfoundation.org

American Angus Auxiliary
For more information on scholarships, awards, Angus royalty and activities, visit:
www.angusauxiliary.com

Certified Angus Beef®
For more information on quality Angus beef, visit:
www.certifiedangusbeef.com
Phone: 330-345-2333

Social Media
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The American Angus Association believes in the power and the promise of Angus youth. Through the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), young Angus members form the nation’s leading junior beef breed organization — a program dedicated to developing tomorrow’s Angus farmers and ranchers.

The NJAA offers young agriculturalists educational workshops, leadership conferences, and scholarship opportunities through the Angus Foundation.

Participation in NJAA activities provides juniors with skills benefiting them beyond their youth. NJAA activities and showing participation offer a community of young people across the United States who have similar interests in Angus cattle and agriculture.

Joining the NJAA is simple. First, submit a completed application, available online or on page 23. Second, submit annual membership fees to remain an active member.

In addition to registering and transferring Angus cattle, juniors between the ages of 9 and 20 years of age (as of Jan. 1 of the current year), may participate in NJAA-sponsored shows and contests, including the organization’s premier event, the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

Also, the NJAS offers educational opportunities and life skills contests, including a mentoring program, showmanship contest, state competitions, public speaking contests and more. The NJAS is a weeklong, one-of-a-kind event for junior members and their families, who travel from more than 35 states each year to attend.

Besides shows, several youth activities are also available for Angus youth to build leadership skills. The Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference is held at different locations each year and offers team-building exercises, leadership and character training, and educational tours of area locations.

Raising the Bar conference is a highly intensive training course for junior members and advisors developed to build stronger leaders within their junior associations.

Participation in activities at the local, regional and national levels establishes the basis for American Angus Auxiliary and Angus Foundation scholarships, and other NJAA honors. These scholarships and awards are presented to individuals who demonstrate outstanding participation and achievement in Angus projects; school, community and church; and who have exhibited exceptional character.
American Angus Association
The Business Breed

A Breed With A Story
The American Angus Association, located in the heart of America — St. Joseph, Mo. — and the Angus breed tell a story with rich history; a history of high-quality beef and production efficiency preferred by producers and consumers.

The first Angus cattle, originally named Aberdeen-Angus, were brought from Scotland to the United States in 1873 by George Grant, who established an agricultural development near Victoria, Kan. Those recorded in the early Scottish Angus herdbooks can be linked to all purebred Angus cattle in the world today.

The American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders’ Association was founded in Chicago, Ill., on November 21, 1883 with 60 members. The name shortened to the American Angus Association in the 1950s. In the first century of operation, more than 10 million head were recorded. The Association today records more cattle than any other beef breed association; making it the largest beef breed registry association in the world.

The Right Price
Prices paid for registered Angus cattle vary and depend on many things including: performance records and expected progeny differences (EPDs); bloodlines in the pedigree; physical appearance; age of animal, and whether or not she is bred; showing success; and current cattle prices.

To get an idea of what Angus cattle are worth, consult your regional manager or a trusted cattle producer and attend several Angus sales to study the various offerings.

Always keep in mind your goals and make a list of the traits you want your cattle to have, ranking them from the most important to the least. A list of desired traits should include structural soundness; specific EPDs; and femininity or muscling depending on the sex; and many more characteristics specific to your goals.

Before buying from a producer, check your list, look at their health program to make sure they are up-to-date, and check for accurate identification.

Reviewing Your Budget
Each year thousands of commercial cattle producers purchase Angus cattle for the superior qualities they’re known for, specifically their production, maternal and carcass traits.

Purchasing your Angus animal is the first step in a long process of decisions that will impact the future of your herd. Before purchasing, define your goals and know the responsibilities that come with this new endeavor. Although this may be a youth project, raising cattle is usually a family effort. Discuss your project and future with family and friends.

While reviewing your plans consider the financial requirements and required resources. This may include pasture, feed, water supply, a cattle pen and possibly showing equipment. If your budget is limited, look into purchasing a bred heifer rather than a weaned heifer calf, which requires two years of feed and care before any return to your investment.

Check The Facts
Once you have purchased your registered Angus heifer, make sure the seller has the correct information to transfer the animal, including your name, address and Association member code. The seller will then use this information to transfer ownership through the Association. Below is a checklist of items to look at when you receive paperwork.

- Is your name and address correctly listed?
- Does the tattoo listed match that of the one in your animal’s ear?
- Is the issue date correct?
- Is the breeding information listed?

Check the Papers

4
Accurate Record Keeping

Being a livestock producer means constant education to keep up with an ever-changing industry. An easy way to stay up to date with industry trends is to take advantage of the Association’s resources.

Successful Angus breeders may utilize Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) to compare a multitude of traits among a herd, including growth, production and carcass information. AHIR also makes identifying superior cattle easier, serves as a marketing tool and adds information to the Angus breed as a whole.

Performance records allow producers to more easily identify which genetics will aid in efficiently directing their herds in the right direction.

The Importance of EPDs

The next step to gear your herd’s direction is to review expected progeny differences (EPDs). EPDs are estimates of an individual’s genetic transmitting ability in a particular trait compared to the entire Angus breed. Several EPDs are available and are broken into three categories — production, maternal and carcass, which are then divided into 20 specific traits. Below is an example of EPDs found in a weekly Sire Evaluation Report provided through the Association.

Producers often concentrate on different EPD values specific to their herd needs, while using multi-trait selection strategies, which have historically provided the best long-term results.

Each EPD has two numbers; the top number expresses how a sire’s offspring is expected to perform compared to all other progeny in the database. The bottom number is an accuracy value from 0 to .99. The closer the number is to 1, the more reliable the prediction. Both values are derived from performance records, pedigree information and genomic data collected through AHIR.

The Angus Brand

Sire selection is also important from a feedlot aspect since certain sires produce a higher quality end product. The American Angus Association was the first beef breed to identify the quality of its product and market it to the consuming public. Certified Angus Beef (CAB) was developed in 1978, and, today, CAB is spanning the globe as the largest branded-beef program in the world.

Before a carcass qualifies as a Certified Angus Beef product, it must meet certain specifications. This is where sire selection comes into effect as certain sires bring forth better carcass traits and terminal value than others.

Live animals must be at least 51% black-hided or enrolled in AngusSource®. The carcass must meet the following specifications:

1. Modest or higher marbling.
2. Medium or fine marbling texture.
3. Only the youngest classification of product qualifies as "A" maturity.
4. 10- to 16-square-inch ribeye area.
5. Less than 1,000-pound hot carcass weight.
7. Superior muscling.
8. Practically free of capillary ruptures.
9. No dark cutters.
10. No neck hump exceeding 2 inches.
Setting up a successful nutritional plan for Angus cattle is easier said than done. Producers have several details to consider for cattle to express their full genetic ability. Issues include: climate and environment, budget, resources, reproductive cycle and age.

While weighing your options, keep in mind that it is better to pay a little more for nutrient-rich, high-quality feed than pay less for lower-quality feed. A county extension agent, livestock specialist or feed salesman can help design a well-balanced, economical feed program.

CREEP-FEEDING
Angus cows are excellent mothers and provide plenty of nutrient-rich milk to raise healthy calves. Some producers use other tools to help boost the growth of their calves.

One method, creep-feeding, can help when nutrition for cows becomes limited due to heavy stocking rates or dry weather.

Although creep-feeding may increase weaning weights and reduce stress at weaning, there are some disadvantages. First, creep-feeding could make it more difficult to identify cows with inferior milking abilities since calves will continue to be healthy and grow due to the creep feed. Second, creep-feeding can make calves too fat, which can result in decreased production.

Use coarsely cracked grains such as corn, oats, barley or grain sorghum for best results. Intake should not exceed 1 percent of the animal’s body weight and contain approximately 14 percent protein content.

POSTWEANING
A beef cow’s milk nutritional value peaks two to three months after the calf is born, and the calf needs to be weaned 150-220 days of age.

Weaning is a stressful process on both the dam and calf, and proper care and management is essential. If done properly the calf will continue to grow in order to reach its maximum yearling weight and frame, without becoming over conditioned.

If the calf weighs between 500 and 600 pounds at weaning and has the genetic ability to weigh 800 pounds at a year of age, they must gain about 200-300 pounds between weaning and yearling. This means the ideal target for the calf is an average daily gain (ADG) of 2 pounds per day. To reach this goal, feed approximately 1.5 percent of the calf’s body weight per day with a quality grain ration.

The most commonly fed grains include, but are not limited to, corn and oats. Feed your calf corn that is whole kernel or very coarsely milled. Oats and barley can be fed whole or rolled, and they work well in rations.

Grain sorghum, coarsely milled, has lower energy content than corn; expect slightly lower gains over corn.

Wheat is sometimes used, but not at more than one-third of the ration; ruminants do not respond well to a high-wheat ration.

Always start feed gradually, and wait around 30 days for them to eat their maximum amount of feed.

OTHER IMPORTANT FEED ADDITIVES
It is crucial to feed cattle more than grain. Other items in a proper feed ration include: protein, minerals, vitamins and good-quality forages.

The quality of the forage will effect your cattle’s performance, appearance and herd health. It will also determine the additional nutritional needs. Add a vitamin A supplement if leafy and bright green legume hay; dehydrated alfalfa meal; sun-bleached or rain-bleached legumes; grass hay; silage; soybean meal; or cottonseed meal are used.

Consider the following guidelines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feed</th>
<th>Supplement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grass hay or pasture</td>
<td>½ pound protein supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leafy legume hay, alfalfa</td>
<td>None needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn- or sorghum silage</td>
<td>¼ pound of protein supplement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most commercial (brand name) supplements are 30-40 percent protein. Soybean meal and cottonseed meal are slightly more than 40 percent.
Provide iodized salt, in block or granular form, in a separate feeder protected from the weather. Feed grains are good sources of phosphorus; and legume pastures and hay are excellent sources of calcium. Producers may provide additional sources through forage or grain rations.

A list of guidelines follows:

CARING FOR THE EXPECTING MOTHER
When a heifer reaches 600 pounds, she will most likely reach puberty and come into heat shortly after. A common method for first-time breeding is to breed at 12 to 15 months of age — 75 percent of mature-cow weight — and calve at 24 months of age.

Efficient nutrition practices are important before breeding to increase the chance of reproductive soundness and an early breeding-season pregnancy. A proper feeding practice means less calving problems, stronger calves at birth, and a quicker return to estrus.

Before breeding, check your heifers body condition score (BCS), as it greatly affects reproductive performance, and adjust feed accordingly. The ideal BCS is 5; the heifer is neither fat nor thin.

After your heifer is bred, gradually wean her onto an all-forage diet, with little or no grain, to promote skeletal growth throughout her pregnancy.

The last 90 days of pregnancy, the gestation period, is a crucial point for a successful birth. While calving she will lose more than 100 pounds; to make up for this loss ahead of time, manage nutritional needs, an ADG of 1 pound per day.

MAINTAINING A LACTATING COW
After parturition, a cow has three main jobs: provide milk, maintain her body for the next breeding cycle, and continue to grow.

Lactation is a stage in a cow’s life requiring the most nutritional needs. If not fed properly, the cow’s future reproductive performance will be affected. To ensure proper health, feed the highest quality forage available. This will provide energy and protein. A producer may also feed grain if forage is not available. Upon re-breeding, manage her as a mature cow.

FEEDING ANGUS COWS
A producer’s yearly goal is to keep calving on schedule and to raise healthy, valuable calves.

After a cow weans her calf — and 90 days before she calves again — crop residues, such as corn and grain sorghum stalks, are sufficient for her needs and add grain in cold weather. If managed properly, she may lose weight during this period and still give birth to a healthy calf.

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO AVOID SETBACKS:

1. Consult a veterinarian for advice on disease prevention and explain plans, if any, to exhibit your cattle.
2. Always ask about health records and the general herd health program before buying.
3. Study the most common diseases in the area and learn the best prevention and treatment methods.
4. Construct a year-round schedule of when to vaccinate. A comprehensive vaccination program is recommended.
5. Obtain health certificates from a veterinarian well in advance of show dates.
6. Observe cattle year-round, especially during transportation and climate change.
Juniors may want to consider presenting their animal at a show. Several shows are held throughout the summer at the regional, state and national level. It is important to pay close attention to all show rules and health requirements. More information can be found at www.njaa.info.

FROM THE BEGINNING
Before entering the showring there are several steps to take to prepare. First, halter-break the calf, which is safer and less stressful if started shortly after weaning.

There are several strategies to halter-break an animal but, the ultimate goal is to minimize stress for all concerned — the calf, equipment and yourself. Contact a local extension agent or regional manager to help determine which method is best for your skill level, resources and available time.

A list of popular techniques follows:

1. Run several calves together in a crowded pen. Enter the pen slowly and calmly, and scratch calves on the back, not head.

2. Halter calf and let it drag for a few days prior to tying. This allows the calf to understand pressure means stop. Always remove the halter at night.

Each method requires a nylon rope halter (about ½-to ⅝-inch diameter); the handler to remain calm and patient at all times; and tying calf 12 inches away from the fence, with their head in a natural position for short periods of time, approximately 15-20 minutes. While handling, try not to allow the calf to pull away; once a calf gets away it will try again.

When the calf stops pulling against the halter, begin tying its head up, so it understands standing with its head up with their feet sturdy and square underneath. Begin to practice stops and turns to allow the calf and yourself to better understand maneuvers and behaviors.

The next step is to add in a showstick, with time for the calf to adjust. Scratching the calf's belly with the showstick, after setting their feet, help them remain calm and aids in keeping their top line up.

Set the front feet square under the calf to create a straight line from shoulder to ground. The back feet are set at an angle with the back leg, facing the inside of the showring, set back slightly farther than the non-show side.

Always use practice as a mock show, so a calf can better adjust once at a show. More showmanship tips can be found on page 13.

PROPER FITTING TECHNIQUES
The next step is to fit your animal. The object of fitting is to present an animal in the best possible form while still looking natural. There are several techniques to fitting cattle, but each concept is the same. After practice and watching others fit, you will find what works best.

HAIR CARE
Before an exhibitor can begin to fit, they will spend time caring for their animal’s hair. Genetics and nutrition play important roles in hair growth. A veterinarian can help develop a ration to promote a healthy hair coat.

Consider the following guidelines:

1. Protein (12-14 percent protein on a ration with 60:40, oats:corn)
2. Minerals and iodized salt
3. Vitamin A
4. Routine worming
5. Beet pulp or cottonseed hulls act as a filler, expanding the animal's stomach. Cottonseed also helps keep oil in hair.

Other strategies to stimulate hair growth include:

- brushing, especially in the hot summer months;
- daily rinsing with mild soap and conditioner, to replace natural oils;
- and keeping animals in a dark, cool place with fans or misters to circulate air.

To promote new hair growth, shear the animal in March or April (Illustration A) and wash a minimum of once a week. Regular washing will also control external parasites. Dry and spray with oil-like hair-conditioning polish to train the hair.
Before clipping begins, consult a show-supply salesman to purchase correct clippers for your skill level. Then identify the animal’s weaknesses to correct while clipping. For safety, restrain the animal in a chute and always stay alert.

Approximately three weeks before a show, clip the head, brisket, and neck (Illustrations C & D). Clipping usually takes two sessions — before and at the show. The main portion of clipping is completed at home, with a minor touch up at the show. Body clipping on an animal can take 45 minutes or more, depending on the amount of hair on the animal and the clipper’s level of experience.

Proper hoof trimming is also vital to show an animal and how it moves. If done incorrectly poor hoof trimming can affect the calf’s movement and showing presence. Hooves are trimmed 30-60 days prior to a show, with clean bedding to prevent infections.

AT THE SHOW
Take precautionary measures before traveling to prevent stress on the animal. Do not feed the morning of leaving for a show; upon arriving feed half a ration; and keep the calf clean and comfortable at all times.

The day of the show, wash, dry and feed the calf two hours prior to the show start. To accomplish a deeper-bodied appearance the day of show, restrict water intake until right before entering the showing, or feed beet pulp; cottonseed hulls; water or alfalfa.

Shear animal 90 to 120 days prior to show. If using a pair of sheep-head clippers or two-speed clippers, shear up on the calf’s body and down the lower quarter and legs. If using regular flat-head clippers, clip down the entire animal. Leave some hair on the poll, tailhead and lower hind legs.

Rinse, brush and blow dry your animal to promote hair growth and set the hair in a desired angle. This also keeps the calf clean and presentable.

After washing:
1. Remove excess water with backside of comb, brushing in a downward motion.
2. Brush all hair downward, removing curls.
3. Brush hair toward the front shoulder and neck.
4. For animals with more hair, brush at a 45-degree angle, and work toward desired angle. Brush the hair on the legs straight forward.
5. Use a blower (moving top to bottom, front to back) to help train the hair. Rest the tip of the nozzle next to the skin and move slowly in an arc pattern. Be sure not to create lines in the animal when using the blowers.
Tail and tailhead (A) - This area is used to enhance the visual effect of a level hip and add body and thickness. Clip above the grow bone tight (see Illustration E).

Belly (B) - Use sheep-heads or two-speed clippers to trim long hairs on belly for a clean appearance.

Brisket (C) - Shave brisket up with flat-head clippers and blend in with neck hair.

Point of shoulder (D) - Use as a guide point when shaving the front end (three weeks prior to show). Trim hair short to reduce prominence. Under the shoulder point, leave hair long and use to blend.

Behind the shoulder (E) - Leave hair as long as possible to ensure proper blending by the shoulder joint.

Neck (F) - Three weeks prior to the show clip the neck on females from the point of shoulder forward, to appear more feminine. Use sheep-head or two-speed clipper to go up with hair; and flat heads to clip down. Hair should be utilized at the top of the shoulder to give a smoother appearance.

Poll (G) - Leave hair on head to give added length and youthfulness.

Always clip against the natural direction of the hair to achieve a closer, smooth job. Approximately three weeks before the show, shear the neck, brisket and head. A few days before the show, re-clip the animal’s face. Try not to make line too distinct; keep it neat and natural.

A. Extend hair at tailhead, hold with glue and trim to desired shape to create a corner to make the animal appear longer hipped.

B. Clip hair into a short “V.” This gives the appearance of width between the pins.

C. Ball or trim tail.
**EVERYDAY SUPPLIES**
- Rice-root brush
- Scrub brush
- Scotch comb and fluffer comb – plastic to work hair, metal for fitting
- Sprayers
- Hair-conditioning polish
- Blower
- Feed pans
- Water buckets
- Extension cords
- Broom, pitch fork, shovel
- Pliers, hammer and other tools
- Neck rope
- Halter
- Extra halter
- Working chute or blocking chute
- Fan
- Showstick

**WASHING SUPPLIES**
- Soap (General livestock shampoo or dish soap)
- Hair conditioner
- Scrub brush
- Hose
- Nozzle
- Wash bucket/dip bucket
- Fly repellent

**CLIPPERS**
- Flat heads
- Two-speed or sheep-head clippers
- Blades
- Clipper lube and oil
- Screwdriver
- Extension cords

**SHOW-DAY SUPPLIES**
- Scotch comb
- Clippers
- Grooming adhesive
- Tail comb, glue and ties
- Show oil
- Show foam (optional)
- Adhesive remover
- Extension cords
- Chute
- Fitting mats
- Water buckets
- Blower
- Show halter

**RING-SIDE SUPPLIES**
- Clean scotch comb
- Paper towels
- Showstick
- Show harness with number
- Nose lead (for bulls)

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**FITTING TIPS**

1. Apply a light mist of hair-conditioning polish everywhere except the legs. Comb in and blow dry. The more you blow on an animal, the better the hair stands up. Reapply as needed.

2. Comb out the tail to leave natural, or backcomb the hair and use strong adhesive to form a teardrop shape.

3. Spray adhesive sparingly on the animal’s legs and pull hair up and forward with a scotch comb, also known as to bone the leg.

4. Fit tailhead and clip out topline.

5. Put on the show halter, and offer calf water.

6. Once out of the chute spray a light coat of oil on the animal to give a glossy finish, especially around the neck.

7. After the show, use an oil product remover to get all products off, then rinse animal with soap that cuts through the oil. Wash within 24 hours for best results.

8. Continue to brush the animal and work the hair to prepare for the next show.

*Reminder: The American Angus Association does not allow the use of coloring agents at the show.*
A. Hip hair is very important in order for the animal to appear level hipped.

B. Trim hair around the tail short, in an outward motion, leaving most hair on the hind-quarter edge to create thickness and dimension.

C. Blend the area from the hock to the lower stifle to add muscle shape.

D. Trim the outside hock area short to add balance and extension.

E. Shave or trim inside hock area to add height.

F. The twist area can be trimmed and shaped to appear more muscular.

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A. Brush hair out and around hind quarter to add dimension.

B. Hair is used to fill hip to create a level appearance from hooks to pins.

C. Pull hair up and out to add muscularity.

D. Leave hair long to add width to lower quarter.

E. Leave hair above hock to reduce hock prominence.

F. Shave ball of hock to skin, 3-inch-long area to reduce hock prominence.

G. Trim long hairs to appear structurally correct, and heavier bone.

H. Trim right above hock area to straighten the appearance of the leg.

I. Trim long hair to fill hock joint area and to straighten the appearance of the leg.

J. Trim around entire leg to add a straight, symmetrical appearance.

K. Pull hair on cannon bone forward to add length.

L. On steers and heifers, clip loin top area flat.
Success in the showring derives from hard work and practice at home. Showmanship is the ability to present you and your animal in the best form possible, in front of a judge. It is the look, the presentation, and knowledge of your animal and the beef industry.

Preparation
Showmanship begins with the exhibitor, and a professional look creates a solid foundation. The American Angus Association requires all junior members in NJAA-sponsored shows to wear a collared, tucked-in shirt in the showring. It is recommended to wear boots or closed-toe leather shoes — no tennis shoes — black or dark-colored jeans, and a belt.

Show participants will receive an exhibitor number or back tag, which coincides with the show program or posting sheet, to be worn in the showring.

A show harness is worn to display the number, and can be purchased at a show-supply store. It is essential to buy a correctly-sized harness for a professional appearance and comfort. Exhibitor show harnesses are recommended but entry number belt clips are also available.

Other showring equipment includes a showstick and a comb. Showsticks come in a variety of sizes and colors, use a 54-inch or longer showstick to present the animal; showsticks relate to the size of the animal, not the height of the showman.

The showstick is a valuable tool to help correctly place the cattle's legs in the showring. Before the show, practice at home to maximize potential to impress the judge. At home place their feet with their head held high. After setting their feet, scratch their underbelly with the showstick to help them remain calm.

Other equipment an exhibitor needs is a comb, placed in the back pocket. When showing market animals, the judge will often feel the animal's ribs for fat coverage. After the judge has moved on, use the show comb to smooth the hair back into place.

In the Showring
Before a showman can present their skills, they evaluate the showring. Look for the gates, the levelness of the ring, and the flow of cattle. It is recommended that an exhibitor allow time to observe how the ring stewards and judge are lining up the cattle.

In the showring avoid the slopes and holes, and do not place the front feet of an animal in a hole, as the animal will appear downhill. Instead, use the holes as an advantage — stopping the animal with the back feet in the hole.

In the ring, hold the showstick on the left-hand side parallel to the body. Do not drag the showstick on the ground, or hold the showstick too high, as if to ask a question. An exhibitor can also position the showstick in front of the animal's nose as a guide to control the speed of the animal. If your animal misbehaves or walks too fast, a slight tap on the nose will correct their behavior to slow down or stop the animal.

Walk the animal into position to look more natural, rather than adjusting each foot. Work on stopping your animal in their natural state, and use the showstick for minor foot changes. If the animal appears unnatural or is unfixable to set up, gently pull forward on the halter to move up a step. This is often easier than resetting them.

No matter where you are in the showring, always allow extra space between animals exhibited; this creates a workable space to reset your animal. When pulling in for a rear view, the controlled space is on the left side.

Once the animal is set, switch hands with the showstick and halter — now having the halter in the left hand, and the showstick in the right hand.

Remember, always be aware of the location of the judge in the ring, to watch for when the judge pulls your calf in, and keep an eye on your animal's feet in case one moves out of place.

While keeping an eye on the judge, a showman should have a collected facial expression. Each showmanship judge has a different take on expressions, but the important thing is to portray confidence — be serious, but have fun.

Additional Showmanship Tips
A judge may also evaluate an exhibitor's beef and industry knowledge; so an exhibitor should always be prepared with answers before they enter the showring. When answering, stay confident and collected.

A list of expected questions follows:

- What is the animal's birth date?
- Who is the animal's sire?
- How much does your bull/steer weigh?
- Is your heifer pregnant, and when is she due?
- What do you feed your animal and how much?
- What is the current market price of beef in your area?
A judging competition consists of classes of livestock with four individual animals, marked one through four, and contestants who decide how to rank them. To place them, follow a set of criteria that is specific to the breed and sex of the animal.

Basic steps involved in livestock evaluation follows:

1. Acquire the knowledge necessary to understand an animal’s intended function and the correct form and shape needed to efficiently perform the function. Establish a mental picture of the ideal animal that combines all traits efficiently.

2. Evaluate and compare individual animals to the established ideal. Then compare animals in a class to one another and thereby measure their relative strengths and weaknesses.

3. Make a decision, then rank animals in a logical place, with facts gathered through evaluation of individuals and comparison of one another.

4. Defend your placing with oral reasons.

A judge will need to know factors to help evaluate traits in the animal. A competition might have a market steer, breeding cattle and performance cattle class.

**Market Steers**
A good market steer has a powerful look with a large volume of muscle. Look for muscle expression and thickness at and through his top, rump and hind quarter. Another important criteria is a correct degree of finish to indicate quality and cutability in the carcass he will yield.

He will have a wide chest with depth and spring of rib with a long body and a moderate frame size, this will allow his weight to range between 1,100 to 1,300 pounds.

**Breeding Cattle**
A breeding heifer will have a moderate frame score, long or deep body with more shape and spring to the rib and wider chest. Other traits include, feminine appearance with less muscle through her top, rump and hind quarter; strong top line and level rump, set wide through pins; and uniformity in her depth from fore-rib to flank.

Older heifers will display better udder quality with refined teats and a stronger udder attachment.

A quality heifer will have a 45-degree slope of shoulder, which creates structural soundness with flex to pasterns, knees and hocks. This will allow her to move strong and easy, taking a long, wide stride while the rear hooves step in the track of the front hooves, at a normal pace.

A modern, masculine bull, regardless of breed is similar to the heifer. He will have a powerful appearance with excellent composition and a large volume of muscle dimension through his top, rump and quarter, and a correct degree of condition or fleshiness.

When evaluating breeding cattle keep in mind these priorities:

1. Structural Correctness: Shoulder, rump, knee, hock, pastern and hoof structure as it relates to movement and cattle’s ability to function as ruminants.

2. Volume: Body capacity as it relates to the animal’s heartiness and doing ability.

3. Composition: Muscle includes thickness of top, rump and quarter. Condition is the degree of fatness.

4. Balance or Quality: Straightness of lines, distribution of body parts and weight.

5. Growth: The ability to gain weight rapidly within a range of moderate frame scores.

6. Sexual Characteristics: Feminine appearance in heifers; and a rugged, masculine appearance in bulls.

**Performance Cattle**
A performance class will include a scenario with the intended use of the animal, including EPDs. The class is more objective, and often mirrors real-life choices livestock producers face. When judging the class, keep in mind: class description; priorities according to the class description; visual traits; performance records; and a logical final placing.
A significant part of a judging contest is to justify a placing with a set of oral reasons. A successful set derives from the ability to take notes, usually on a Steno notebook, and confidence in the decision. An example of a class with notes and reasons follows:

Class of Angus Heifers

1

2

3

4
3421 is my placing of the Angus heifers. As I stepped to the class, my eyes are immediately drawn to the massive, broody appearing, white flanked heifer as she’s easily the best balanced, heaviest muscled, soundest footed female that should prove to be the easiest keeping when turned out to pasture. In direct comparison to 4, she’s the better balanced, heavier boned heifer that’s unrivaled with regards to body shape and mass. Now I can appreciate that 4 is the more compositionally genuine female that is cleaner through the floor of her chest. However, she remains a distant second, as she’s a plain appearing, flat-sided heifer that’s a touch straight in the angle of her shoulder.

Nonetheless, it’s her obvious advantage in maternal look and fleshing ability that keeps her over 2 in my middle pair. She is a longer-bodied, higher performing heifer that’s bigger-bodied, being especially deeper through her rear rib and flank. Plus, she’s still more acceptable in the angle of her shoulder, while being more correct in her neck/shoulder attachment. Now there’s no question, 2 is neater-necked and more attractive in her hip and hind leg set. However, she’s a shallow-bodied, tight-ribbed heifer that’s just too tight off of both ends.

But still, in my bottom pair of females that share some of the same concerns, I still opted to use 2 over 1, as she is the more attractive, better-profiling female that reads with more genuine shape down her top and out of her hip. Now yes, 1 is the better structured female that steps down on a heavier circumference of bone and foot, and has more flex through her hock and pastern. However, the plain-appearing, poorly presented female is not only a heavy fronted, short-hipped heifer that’s too deep in her chest, but she is the narrowest, lightest-muscled, shallowest-bodied heifer that’s potentially the hardest-keeping.
Benefits of Livestock Judging

- Improve oral communication skills.
- Improve observation skills.
- Improve self-confidence.
- Improve leadership skills.
- Improve knowledge about livestock to help prepare for careers in: commercial production, seedstock production, feeding, buying, packing and food industries and many non-agriculture careers.
- Provide opportunities to gain friends, travel and market yourself through contacts and exposure for jobs and scholarships.
- Improve critical thinking; experience to help to refine your decision making process through making logical, rational decisions based on the information gathered.
Outside the Showring
Leadership Skills

The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) expands beyond the showring and the farm. The NJAA offers valuable life skills; industry knowledge; and lifelong friends through leadership activities, opportunities and conferences.

**STATE AND REGIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATIONS**
The first step is involvement in local, regional and/or state associations. A member of these associations will meet fellow junior Angus members, and state advisors available to give advice on an NJAA project. Once an active member, run for an officer position within the association and broaden your leadership skills.

State associations may offer state preview shows during the summer; this is a great way to show off hard work, meet fellow Angus breeders and to develop a better understanding of the NJAA and the Angus industry. To find out how to get involved, contact the Junior Activities department.

**STATE ROYALTY**
Young ladies in the NJAA, have the opportunity to serve as ambassadors for the Angus breed through the American Angus Auxiliary and state auxiliaries as state and national royalty. Each state has a select number of queens, princesses, and/or ebonettes elected to serve and represent their state association. State royalty aids with the distribution of ribbons and awards in the showring and other various activities to promote the Angus and beef industry.

**MISS AMERICAN ANGUS**
The American Angus Auxiliary scholarship program is for high school senior boys and girls. The female scholarship winners receive the opportunity to run for Miss American Angus and serve a one-year term as queen of the Angus breed. During her reign, her duties are to travel to shows and events; mentor state royalty; speak at Angus-sponsored events; and promote beef.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**
National scholarships are available to NJAA members through the Angus Foundation. These scholarships and awards are presented to individuals who demonstrate outstanding participation and achievement in Angus projects; the NJAA, school, community and church; and who have exhibited exceptional character.
National Junior Recognition Program
NJAA members are nationally recognized for their continued achievement through the NJAA. The bronze, silver, and gold awards are given to junior members who participate in NJAA activities and programs of the American Angus Association. The three levels of recognition are: bronze and silver, earned at any age; and the gold award, received during the junior member’s last year of eligibility. Applications are found at www.njaa.info.

Life Skills Contests
In conjunction with the National Junior Angus Show, life-skills contests for NJAA members include public speaking, quiz bowl, the All-American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB) Cook-Off, team fitting, team sales, career development, and many more. Those unable to attend the NJAS can still participate in the contests and submit entries in the photography, writing and graphic design contests.

Raising the Bar
Raising the Bar is an intensive leadership-training course for junior members and advisors. The course builds stronger leaders within the association, and creates regional relationships amongst other state associations. Attendees participate in a weekend workshop focused on team-building; goal-setting; leadership development; and industry knowledge. Raising the Bar is offered throughout the year in different regions of the U.S.

LEAD Conference
The Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, open to junior members 14-21 years of age, is held annually as the national junior leadership conference. During the four-day conference, junior members participate in interactive workshops; listen to keynote leadership speakers and team-building facilitators; visit Angus farms and ranches; and tour local area attractions. The event takes place at a different location each year.

NJAA Board of Directors
The junior board is comprised of a 12-member team of young Angus leaders who develop and carry out programs and serve the NJAA members and the Angus breed across the nation. Six new directors are elected to serve on the board each year at the NJAS, and each board member serves a two-year term.

The goal of the junior board is to implement new ideas to create a stronger NJAA and Angus breed, and serve as ambassadors and mentors within the breed. Take the opportunity and advantage as a member of the elite group, NJAA. Attend all functions; communicate with peers; and begin to network with people across the country. Set your goals — and take action to achieve them now.
Accuracy (ACC) – Value indicating how reliable EPDs are for predicting actual progeny differences. Younger animals will have low ACC values. These values may change as progeny data becomes available.

Adjusted weaning weight (WW) – Actual weaning weight adjusted to 205 days of age and to mature dam equivalent.

Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) – A comprehensive program that provides breeders, who enroll and submit performances measures, with decision-support tools from which to make better, more informed breeding decisions.

Artificial Insemination (AI) –Implanting semen into the reproductive tract of a cow, by a means other than natural service by a bull.

Average daily gain (ADG) – Weight gain for a specified period of time divided by the number of days in that period.

Birth weight (BW) – Actual weight of calf within 24 hours of birth. Expressed in pounds.

Blocking chute – A metal or aluminum structure with a headgate used to restrain animal when fitting or clipping.

Blower – An electric unit used to dry an animal or to blow out dirt before fitting.

Body condition score (BCS) – A score on a scale of one to nine, reflecting the amount of fat reserves in a cow’s body, where one equals very thin, and nine equals extremely fat.

Calving – The process of giving birth to a calf, also known as parturition.

Certified Angus Beef (CAB) LLC – The American Angus Association’s branded-beef program that identifies animals meeting live and carcass specifications from harvest through retail.

Clippers – Metal blades installed on clippers used for shearing animals. There are various brands and sizes for different types of hair.

Commercial – Animals or herds that are not registered.

Crossbred – A breeding program that involves the mating of at least two different breeds.

Curry comb – A type of comb used to remove mud and other dirt from an animal’s hair coat.

Expected progeny differences (EPDs) – An estimate of how future progeny are expected to perform in several traits. EPDs are expressed in units of measure for the trait, either plus or minus, and are only comparable within the same breed.

Fill – The appearance of fullness.

Flat-head clippers – Clippers used to shear the head and belly of an animal (closer clipping).

Frame score – A value determined by hip-height and age.

Gestation – pregnancy; the period a cow carries a developing calf in her uterus, usually nine months.
Hair-conditioning polish – A spray-on product used to set hair and resists stains and dust. Sometimes referred as Show Sheen.

Halter – Nylon halter available in a variety of colors. Halters are used on a daily basis when working with show cattle.

Health certificate or health paper – A certificate of health provided by a veterinarian upon the completion of a physical examination of the animal. Required to haul the animal out-of-state.

Heat – Estrus; Regularly occurring period of ovulation (occurs every 18-24 days in cattle) and the best time for breeding.

Lactation – The production of milk by a cow; begins after calving and concludes after weaning.

Neck rope – Nylon ropes used to keep animals evenly spaced in stalls and acts as a second halter to restrain animal if halter becomes untied or slips off.

Parturition – The process of giving birth to a calf, also known as calving.

Polled – Naturally hornless cattle.

Purebred – An animal whose sire and dam are of the same breed.

Quality Grade – Prime, Choice, Select, Standard, Utility, Cutter and Canner are the various USDA Quality Grades; maturity and marbling are the two factors which determine them; the quality grade reflects the eating quality of the beef – tenderness, juiciness and flavor.

Ratio – Expression of an animal’s individual performance relative to the contemporary group average for any trait. Ratios are methods of ranking among contemporaries; where 100 is average; 9.9 or less is below average; and 100.1 or greater is above average for a particular trait.

Ration – An allotted amount of food that provides the animals with necessary ingredients for maximum growth and efficiency.

Registered – An animal recorded in the herd book, in its respective breed association.

Registration paper – A certificate proving an animal is registered; contains animal’s name, registration number, owner, pedigree, and any available performance information, including EPDs and $Value indexes.

Rotational crossbreeding – A breeding schematic in which a sire will be used in a two-or-three-breed rotational system where the females are bred to the breed contributing the smallest portion of genes.

Seedstock – Registered or commercial breeding stock.

Scotch comb – Available with wooden or aluminum handles used to comb hair into place.

Sheep-head clippers – A type of clipper used in body clipping an animal.

Showbox – Wooden, aluminum or galvanized boxes used to store show products and other tools needed at a show.

Show halter – A leather halter used only when showing an animal.

Tattoo – An identification method that is placed in the ear, and helps breeders and the American Angus Association maintain accurate parentage and production records of Angus cattle. Tattoos should be the same in each ear, and should match the animal’s registration paper.
Terminal crossbreeding – A management scenario in which a sire will be used in a breeding program where no females will be kept for replacements. Emphasis should be placed on growth and carcass traits.

Weaning – Withholding a calf from its mother, and substituting other nourishment for the mother’s milk.

Weight per day of age (WDA) – Weight of an individual divided by days of age.

Yearling weight (YW) – Weight taken at 365 days of age to track performance with maternal influence excluded. Expressed in pounds.

Yield Grade – Reflects the percentage of closely trimmed retail cuts from the round, loin, rib and chuck; yield grades are one through five; with one representing the highest percentage of lean cuts, and five representing the lowest.
APPLICATION FOR JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP

American Angus Association, 3201 Frederick Avenue, Saint Joseph, Missouri 64506
(816) 383-5100 Fax: (816) 233-9703 www.angus.org

I hereby make application to the Board of Directors of the American Angus Association for Junior Membership in consideration of acceptance of this application. I agree to conform to and abide by the Rules of the Association (including but not limited to those rules relating to shows and AHIR submissions), its bylaws and any amendments or modifications that may be made thereto from time to time. By signing this application for membership, the applicant waives any claim against and grants a release to the American Angus Association, any member, employee or agent of the Association, for any act or omission in connection with the enforcement of the rules and regulations presently in effect or hereafter adopted by the Association. It is requested that the Membership be entered as follows:

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<td>Parents Names</td>
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Junior membership must be applied for in the name of a person. Membership fees are payable at the time the application is submitted. Application should show the name in which the membership is to be entered. Membership is not transferrable. It is further understood that annual dues are required for continued junior membership. Junior memberships are available to persons under 21 years of age and junior membership privileges expire at age 21.

The length of the membership name and location must not exceed 40 spaces, for example:

JONES & SMITH CATTLE CO. ROCK RIVER IA

WHEN SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION PLEASE ENCLOSE THE REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES OF THE ANGUS CATTLE YOU NOW OWN. ASSOCIATION RECORDS ARE KEPT IN MEMBER AND NON-MEMBER SECTIONS OF THE FILES, AND THE CERTIFICATES WILL ENABLE US TO REMOVE THEIR RECORDS FROM THE MEMBER GROUP OR FROM THE NON-MEMBER GROUP AND PLACE THEM UNDER YOUR NAME IN THE MEMBERSHIP SECTION. YOUR REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES WILL BE RE-ISSUED SHOWING YOUR EXACT MEMBERSHIP NAME AND MEMBER CODE NUMBER. THIS WILL GREATLY FACILITATE REGISTRATION OF NEW CALVES WHEN YOU SUBMIT APPLICATIONS OR TRANSFER ANIMALS YOU NOW OWN. IF YOUR REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES ARE STORED ELECTRONICALLY, PLEASE CONTACT THE ASSOCIATION OFFICE.

The Junior Membership fee is a $20 yearly fee. This membership does not include subscription to the Angus Journal.

- ☐ $20 is enclosed for Junior Membership payment. I understand this membership does not include subscription to the Angus Journal. Initial Here ________________.
- ☐ $70 is enclosed for membership and a 1-yr subscription to the Angus Journal. (Annual renewal required.)
- ☐ Certificates enclosed for corrections.

Authorized Agents – Please recognize the signature of the agents (ranch managers, office assistants or family members) listed below on the applications for entry and transfer on behalf of my membership. This authorization, that gives permission to sign work for this membership, will remain in effect until it is terminated in writing by the holder of the membership.

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Revised 9-21-2011