Striving for a sound future

With the start of 2014, cattle producers are anxiously awaiting the arrival of the new calf crop. Will the new genetics we used outperform their counterparts? We depend on information and guidance from many different sources to help us make sound breeding decisions so we can produce better cattle than the previous generations. This can only be accomplished by managing the many different aspects in the life of the animal.

Overcome challenges

Along the way we will continually meet challenges in our business, as well as in our own lives. For example, the new Angus genetic condition, developmental duplication (DD) has become an obstacle that we must work through to move forward. Our American Angus Association has handled this in the most professional way possible, assuring the Angus breed will not be jeopardized. The Association continues to use every resource possible to overcome this and any roadblocks along the way to success.

As a junior member, you will likely experience some of your own struggles. It may be with a show calf, in school or in your family. Whatever it may be, I encourage each of you to use the resources the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) has available to help you. Your Angus family will do all we can to help guide and support you.

As stated earlier, I am excited about the new crop of state and national junior members. Just as members have access to tools through the Association to make sound breeding decisions for their herds, our juniors have access to information and guidance to help them achieve and accomplish their many goals. Each year it is fun to see the enthusiasm our new members bring, and to watch them gain knowledge and confidence. As we celebrate their accomplishments and contributions, we know our job as “senior” board directors is nearly complete. We are very proud to leave the junior association in the hands of the new crop. Their love of cattle, knowledge and respect for each other will keep the NJAA and the American Angus Association leading the future.

— Luke Nord, Minnesota

Kansas Angus youth receive $16,000 in scholarships

Fourteen scholarship winners for the 2013-2014 school year were recognized during the annual Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) Convention Dec. 6 in Wichita. The Kansas Livestock Foundation (KLF) presented a total of $16,000. Three were awarded to Angus juniors.

Evan Woodbury has been awarded the $2,500 Cattlemen’s Scholarship from GoBob Pipe & Steel and KLF. Woodbury is the son of Howard and Elise Woodbury from Quenemo. He is attending Kansas State University (K-State) and majoring in agricultural education.

Brady Jensen, the son of Kevin and Sheila Jensen of Courtland, was awarded through KLF a $1,000 Wheels for Bucks Scholarship. He is a junior at K-State majoring in animal science.

Esther McCabe, daughter of Randy and Varee McCabe from Elk City, is a sophomore majoring in animal science at K-State. She received a $1,000 “Youth in Agriculture” scholarship from KLF.

KLA is a trade organization protecting the business interests of independent ranchers, feeders and dairy farmers. Members of the association are involved in all segments of the livestock industry, including cow-calf production, backgrounding, cattle feeding, swine, dairy and sheep.

CHS Foundation grant supports new student program

A new program to allow university students to interact with industry leaders is being launched by Farm Foundation, NFP through a grant from CHS Foundation. The $8,800 grant will make it possible for six undergraduate and graduate students to spend two days with agricultural and food system leaders at the January meeting of the Farm Foundation® Round Table.

“The opportunity to meet and visit with agricultural leaders is a valuable opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to gain insights into the industry,” says William Nelson, CHS vice president for corporate citizenship and president of the CHS Foundation. “This program is a good fit with the CHS Foundation focus on education and leadership development to build a strong rural America.”

In operation since 1946, the CHS Foundation is the major giving entity of CHS, an energy, grains and foods company with a stewardship focus of building vibrant communities.

The grant funds provided will cover expenses for six students to participate in the Farm Foundation Round Table in Houston, Texas, in early January 2014. A
Round Table member will serve as a mentor to each student, introducing them to other leaders and encouraging their participation in discussions. The students’ work will be highlighted at a reception during the meeting.

“The Cultivators’ Program provides a link for students about to enter the workforce to connect with the men and women leading agriculture and food businesses across the value chain,” explains Farm Foundation President Neil Conklin. “This academic-to-real-world linkage allows students to see their potential role in the industry, and the opportunities ahead.”

The program began in June 2013 when six students attended the Round Table meeting in Ames, Iowa.

Among these new six students is Angus Round Table member, and 2009 he was a participant in the mentoring program. Juniors Jacob Bend, vice president; and 2013 when six students attended the Round Table meeting in Ames, Iowa.

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AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships have two components. The leader component sponsors the student’s entrance into AFA’s leader-development program, including registration to the AFA Leaders Conference, a professional- and personal-development experience for elite agriculture students across the nation. The academic component provides financial support for student tuition and fees. These scholarships are available to students across the country. Listed below are scholarships currently available through AFA and its partner organizations.

**AFA National Leader and Academic Scholarship**

AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships seek to identify young leaders in the agriculture and food industry to enter AFA leader-development programming and receive an academic scholarship the second semester of their freshman year. While most of these opportunities are targeted toward college freshmen, a few scholarships in this program also include current college students. These AFA scholarships, with the exception of the Belles of the American Royal (BOTAR) scholarship, are $2,600 awards — $1,000 leader development award to attend the AFA Leaders Conference and a $1,600 academic scholarship upon successful attendance. Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of career vision and goal, leader and community involvement, and financial need. Applications are due March 14, 2014. Learn more and apply at www.agfuture.org/scholarships.

Other contributors or designations to the National Leader and Academic Scholarship program are:

► Water Street Solutions provides three AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships to students from the following states: Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Nebraska and Ohio. These students are identified through the general AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship application. High school seniors, as well as current college students, are eligible to apply for these scholarships.

► DFA Cares Foundation provides two AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships to students from throughout the country who express an interest in a career in the dairy industry. Incoming freshmen and current college students are encouraged to apply. The Stanley H. Durwood Foundation provides five AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships to students identified and selected by AFA. Founder of AMC Theaters and active philanthropist, Durwood believed in access to education and his trust is providing for these five scholarships to deserving AFA delegates.

► The Cyr Foundation provides three AFA Leader and Academic Scholarships. The Roderick J. and Jo Anne Cyr Foundation is proud to support this initiative for its long-standing belief in youth and education. Rod grew up on a farm in Maine and the family is still supportive of his interests and agrarian initiatives. High school seniors, as well as current undergraduate college students, are eligible to apply.

► The BOTAR Organization provides one AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship to a female, Midwest agriculture student with a special interest in agriculture education. This scholarship provides a $3,200 academic tuition/fees scholarship, $1,000 registration fee for AFA Leaders Conference and a $200 travel stipend for the student to attend the BOTAR General Membership Meeting in January of her scholarship year.

► The William J. Collins Scholarship was established to honor Mr. Collins upon his retirement from AgriBank, recognizing his many years of service. This scholarship is awarded to children of AgriBank district employees (board of directors excluded) who are graduating high school seniors planning to pursue a bachelor’s degree in an agriculture-related program. Applications are due March 14. Learn more and apply at www.agfuture.org/scholarships.