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P O S T C A R D F R O M A J U N I O R



Justin Wood

## Calving season is key for a successful herd

*Hello, Angus members! I'm Justin Wood from North Carolina representing the National Junior Angus Association Board of Directors.*

And in this edition of the *Angus Journal*, I would like to leave you with a few herd health reminders for this spring calving season. During calving season, regular herd checks are crucial to the success not only of calving season, but a well-maintained herd. For many, calving season is the busiest time of the year, and for me these are things I like to do when it comes to calving.

Of course, the first thing is checking expectant cows and heifers regularly. The next steps, however as easy as they may sound, they are some of the most crucial. When your

cows start calving, you need to assist in every birth where you are needed or not to ensure that everything goes smoothly. After the cows have calved out, there's a series of things I do for identification and records.

First, I weigh the calf for my birth weight records and then I tag them with their correlating number. After that, I am sure to write in my calf book the calf number and cow number of the dam, along with the sire they are out of. After all the cows have calved, I like to turn my cows on silage to give them added nutrients to assist in their maintenance and their

ability to service their calves. This isn't something that all producers feed and everyone has their own way of maintaining cows. But the important thing to remember is that cows need to be kept up not only for their health, but for their ability to raise calves that work for your operation and make you profitable returns.

Remember these helpful tips this calving season and you should be more successful with your herd. With that, have a great start to your new year and may 2020 be prosperous for you and your herd!

– Justin Wood

## Bronze and silver awards

Adam Miller, Gridley, Ill.; Nicholas Siemens, Towanda, Kan.; and Tommy Otte, Saint Mary, Mo., have earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards, according to Jaclyn Upperman, education and events director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo.

**Adam Miller**, the 14-year-old son of Alan and Theresa Miller, attends El Paso Gridley High School. He is a member of the NJAA and the Illinois Junior Angus Association, where he has served as director.

He has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Miller participated in the team fitting contest and

the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off. He participated in the mentoring program in 2014, 2018 and 2019. Miller attended the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference in 2019 and the Mini Raising the Bar conference in 2017.

Miller has submitted weights to the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®).

**Nicholas Siemens**, the 17-year-old son of Mike and Angie Siemens, attends Wichita Collegiate School. He is a member of the NJAA and the Kansas Junior Angus Association. He has participated in local, state, and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Siemens participated in the quiz bowl, photography, creative writing, team

sales, extemporaneous speaking, poster, livestock judging, skill-a-thon contests and the Cook-Off.

Siemens has submitted weight data to the AHIR and consigned cattle to the Indiana Beef Evaluation Bull Sale.

**Tommy Otte**, the 19-year-old son of Tom and Mary Otte, attends Liberty University. He is a member of the NJAA and the Missouri Junior Angus Association.

He has participated in local, state, and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Otte participated in the quiz bowl, team sales, team marketing, extemporaneous speaking and livestock judging contests and the Cook-Off. Otte has submitted weight data to the AHIR. 