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POSTCARD FROM A JUNIOR



Josh Jasper

New year, worthwhile conversations

With the new year upon us, we can take this opportunity to make new decisions for ourselves. Set New Year's resolutions and turn a new page.

Some of the most common resolutions are healthier diets, exercising regularly, saving money or spending more time with family.

Yet for those of us in the cattle industry, a new year brings a different kind of new discussion that often sparks tough conversations.

Being in the cattle business, we are familiar with tough conversations. When should we sell our calves? What's the market going to do? What bull should we breed our cows to?

With 96% of all farms being family owned, the majority of those

tough conversations happen with parents, siblings, grandparents. These decisions potentially have big life implications. Regardless, we keep the future of our operations and families in mind when making these decisions.

Perhaps one of the hardest conversations family farmers need to have is one that gets put on the back burner for far too long — succession planning. While you are setting your New Year's resolutions, consider what you can do to better prepare the family farm for the future.

What does the future of the farm or

ranch look like in five years? 10 years? There are many resources available, whether online or through your loan officers, to help guide the complicated conversation. However, the first thing suggested in every resource is finding a trusted team of professionals like accountants, bankers and lawyers who know the operation and the family.

I encourage you to get started off right this new year by asking yourself and your family members the hard questions.

— Josh Jasper

Bronze and Silver Awards

Kelsey Theis, Leavenworth, Kan., has earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards, according to Jaclyn Upperman, events and education director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo.

The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the NJAA Recognition Program that began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders must apply for the awards, then meet point requirements in many

areas of participation before receiving the honors. Applicants are evaluated in areas of junior Angus association activities and leadership; participation in showmanship, contests and shows; using performance testing to improve their herd; and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

Jerry and Tonya Theis' 17-year-old daughter attends Pleasant Ridge High School. Kelsey Theis is a member of both the NJAA and the Kansas Junior Angus Association

(KJAA). She has served as director and Angus Ambassador for the KJAA.

Theis has participated in shows at the state and national level. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), she participated in the mentoring program. Theis has also attended the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference and Angus Convention.

Minnesota Beef Expo, Oct. 21-24, Saint Paul

The Minnesota Beef Expo welcomed cattle producers and youth livestock exhibitors back to the Minnesota State Fairgrounds after a year hiatus Oct. 21-24, 2021.

This four-day event celebrating and promoting the beef industry is the largest all-breed beef show in Minnesota and includes youth contests, cattle sales, a trade show, educational seminars and a junior show where more than 600 exhibitors from across the Midwest showcased 845 head of cattle.


In the Sullivan Supply Stock Show University Fitting Seminar, experts taught youth how to clip and prepare their cattle for the show ring. Following the seminar, 12 teams competed for champion fitting honors

in the annual Sullivan Supply fitting contest. The champion team, Maxed Out, consisted of Lee Bjorklund, Henning, Minn.; Luke Bjorklund, Henning, Minn.; Cooper Dorn, Battle Lake, Minn.; and Nick Rossman, Oronoco, Minn.

After an intensive application process, participants in the Minnesota Youth Beef Experience Program (MYBEP) were awarded heifers. Each winner is responsible for raising, breeding and maintaining complete records on care of the animal, while providing monthly progress reports to the original owner and the Minnesota Beef Expo. The breeders who donated heifers will also serve as mentors to the respective winners.

Addison Hillman, Brainerd, Minn.,

received an Angus heifer donated by Bullerman Angus Farm, Tom and Trisha Bullerman, Tyler and Hilary Bullerman, Trent and Christine Bullerman, and co-sponsored by Schiefelbein Farms on behalf of the Minnesota Angus Association.

During the junior show, 845 head of cattle were sorted by Shane Meier of Stonewell, Texas, and Lydell Meier of Clinton, Tenn. Supreme champion female honors went to Lynsey Schmitz, Austin, Minn., with her Angus heifer, CRL Miss Halle H11. Reserve supreme champion female went to Klay Lorentz of Woodville, Wis., with his Angus heifer, WP Sophia 011. 

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