

NEXT GENERATION

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POSTCARD FROM A JUNIOR

Honoring Tradition, Moving Forward

by Mary Wood, National Junior Angus Board director



Greetings! As we head into the new year, many of you may have set goals for yourself or your operations.

As a member of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors, I have set many goals for myself and with my fellow team members to achieve during our time of service for the NJAA.

While it is always beneficial to set goals in life, it is also vital to use the lessons learned from previous experiences to effectively make change. Learning from past experiences and challenges in life may allow us to shape our perspective and

foster future personal growth. Facing adversity presents the opportunity to learn, adapt and become better prepared in the future.

The American Angus Association has built a reputation of effectively making change while serving its members. With each challenge that has faced the breed, we have learned from what we do best along with what can do better. We are able to set ourselves apart by learning from our rich history in order to improve.

Today, the Association makes an effort to honor tradition while effectively setting goals for our breed to reach in the future. Through the process of reflection, we can gain insights that move us forward on the path to success.

Learning life's lessons demands humility and openness. Admitting we don't have all the answers and acknowledging our imperfections opens the door to growth.

An open mind allows us to absorb the wisdom gained from our experiences, extracting meaning from both successes and failures. This humility becomes the foundation upon which we build a deeper understanding of ourselves and our goals.

Remember to reflect upon the challenges you have experienced when setting goals for yourself this year, and learn from the lessons of each hardship.

Happy New Year!

BRONZE AND SILVER AWARDS

Bayler Hurlbut, Raymond, S.D., has earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze award, according to Caitlyn Brandt, 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.

From Raymond, S.D., **Bayler Hurlbut** is the 9-year-old daughter of

Dustin and Jeana Hurlbut. The junior attends Clark Elementary School and is currently a director at South Dakota Junior Angus Association.

Hurlbut has participated in shows at the regional, state and national level, including the National Junior Angus Show, where she has been a part of the mentoring program. Additionally, Hurlbut has consigned cattle to the Sankey's 6N Ranch sale.

