



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Opportunity to fly

*"I go anywhere that ol' wind blows
Down a blacktop road, anytime*

*No strings attached, no ties to tie me down
So why hang around when I can fly?"*

—from "Peace of Mind" as sung by George Strait

Who would have ever imagined that a shy, 8-year-old tomboy would become active in so many livestock activities, including the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA)?



Christy Walther

On a typical summer day she could be found out in the barn, washing her calves in an old pair of cut-off bibs with dirt smeared all over her legs. No one would have imagined this girl in a dress and crown eight years later serving as the Virginia Angus queen.

Her first show was in May at the Atlantic National Angus show. Her heifer, Lady, was tamed and trained, like a little puppy. It was time to go into the ring. The girl could not see over her heifer; however, this didn't bother her. Before walking into the brightly lighted showing, she was told to watch the

judge in the cowboy hat and follow the guy in the green jacket.

Once out of the ring she led her heifer back to the stall, got the "purple oil" and started scrubbing. Her white shirt turned black and purple; and her hair, which was once in a neat ponytail, was going 10 different directions. But did this girl care?

No, she had just shown in her first show, and it was Lady's first show as well. Under the dirt, the little girl didn't know what fourth place was, but she thought Lady was the best, no matter what the judge thought.

Yes, I was this shy, filthy, little tomboy. My heifer, Lady, was just as new to the show business as I was.

Adults used to ask, "Don't these kids have any sense?" Well, I guess I didn't because I wouldn't think twice about crawling under my heifer. I wasn't scared of getting hurt. Like many other 8-year-olds, I was shy when it came to people I didn't know. In the early '90s, I started to take notice of the juniors wearing the green jackets. I found out that they were directors of the NJAA. I have served as a voting delegate, and I have worked with and made true friendships with many of the Board members since then. Ever since I started seeing those green jackets, I had a dream ... one day I would wear one.

The national shows are where I really would "go anywhere that ol' wind" would blow. I started out going to the different state displays to get some snacks and candy. Then I started talking to some of the exhibitors. Now I mingle around the barn, seeing folks that I have not seen for the past year.

When attending the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), I feel like we are one big family. I can walk down an aisle and spend time with other exhibitors. In reality, they live a couple hundred miles away, but at the show it is like walking next door.

In the quote I opened with, "So why hang around, when I can fly?" you can see I have flown through expanding acquaintances to friendships. I have not mentioned much about how well I have placed in the showing. I am pleased with the quality of our cattle. I realize that we go to the show to get another judge's opinion and to see how well we stand among other cattle across the country.

No one has tied you down, so go out and explore. Explore people, places, talents, cattle and fun. Of course not everyone can win grand champion — set other goals, like participating in the Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef*® All-American Cook-Off contest, making friends, or having a safe and enjoyable trip.

Earlier I discussed teamwork. "No strings attached, no ties to tie me down." Therefore, if I see someone who could use an extra hand down the aisle, I will go ask if they would like my assistance. No one has me tied to our tack area. Both people gain ... the one struggling gets the help and gets the task accomplished while both gain friendship.

In 1990, a young girl brushes the hair on the legs of a January Angus heifer calf on a warm summer morning in Bluemont, Va.

On a cold winter morning in 2002, a young lady walks out through a pasture to notice the new calves that have arrived from the cows that she has bred and raised through the last few years.

This is the life she enjoys, and she will keep on flying.

—Christy Walther, Mount Crawford, Va.

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Western Regional deadlines for juniors

Juniors planning to show cattle at the Western Regional Junior Angus Show have little time to meet show deadlines. The ownership deadline is Feb. 15, and the entry deadline is March 1. Remember, these are the dates by which applications for transfer and entries must be postmarked. Absolutely no late entries will be accepted for any reason.

Entry forms for the Western Regional have been mailed by the Association, so if you haven't received yours, call the Junior Activities Department immediately. The Western Regional will be April 19-20, in Reno, Nev., in conjunction with the Western National Angus Futurity (WNAF).

Sacramento is site for LEAD conference

The NJAA will host its annual Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, Aug. 1-4, in Sacramento, Calif. Juniors ages 14-21 are eligible to attend the conference, which focuses on leadership, personal development and industry education.

For more information, check out the spring 2002 *Directions* newsletter or watch future issues of the *Angus Journal*. The registration deadline is June 15, and applications will be in the NJAA junior shows, contest and LEAD Conference information packets that will be mailed from the Association later this spring.

Nominate advisors and Honorary Angus Foundation recipients now

Any state junior Angus association can nominate its advisors to be honored as NJAA Advisors of the Year. The award is presented at the NJAS and recognizes the time, effort and dedication these adult volunteers give to their state junior Angus association. Letters of nomination should be submitted to James Fisher by May 1.

Any individual can nominate another Angus enthusiast for the Honorary Angus Foundation. This award is also presented during the NJAS and recognizes those who have made extraordinary contributions to junior Angus programs. Letters of nomination should be submitted to James Fisher by May 1.

To learn more about these awards and their selection criteria, contact the Junior Activities Department.

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Junior scholarships available through Angus Foundation

The Angus Foundation will again award scholarships to 17 deserving junior Angus members who are working toward college degrees. Fifteen juniors will receive \$1,000 scholarships, and two will receive \$2,500 scholarships.

Applicants for the Angus Foundation scholarships must be junior, regular or life members of the American Angus Association and be under 25 years old. Selection is based on involvement in Angus activities, academics and involvement in the beef industry. Winners of the scholarships will be announced during the awards function at the 2002 NJAS.

The NJAA/Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) scholarship will also be awarded at the NJAS to one deserving Angus junior. Applicants for the \$1,000 scholarship must meet the same membership requirements mentioned above and be incoming sophomores, juniors or seniors in college who are majoring in animal science, meat science, ag communications or other related fields.

All applications are due May 15. Contact the Junior Activities Department at the Association for application forms, or obtain one from the Internet at www.angus.org.

Apply for Auxiliary scholarships now

The American Angus Auxiliary awards 10 scholarships annually to five boys and five girls who are graduating high school seniors. Recipients are chosen based on information from application forms that can be obtained from state Angus Auxiliary scholarship chairpersons (see page 248 for a list) or from Nancy Jo Sullivan, American Angus Auxiliary scholarship chairperson, RR 7, Box 38F, Marietta, OH 45750, telephone (740) 373-3270, or e-mail sjscartersville@aol.com. Juniors must first be chosen as their state's auxiliary scholarship winner before advancing to national competition.

The five girls honored with Auxiliary scholarships have the opportunity to compete for the title of Miss American Angus at the 2002 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in November in Louisville, Ky.

Association can help with junior transfers

If you know of a junior member who has purchased a heifer to show and has not

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received the transferred papers, and the ownership deadline for a specific show is fast approaching, the Association can help. Contact the Association at least two weeks prior to the show ownership deadline. Every effort will be made to get the transfer processed in time. Remember, however, that late transfers are never accepted, regardless of the reason.

Start taking pictures now

Junior Angus members are invited to enter the annual photography contest co-sponsored by the NJAA and the *Angus Journal*. Photos of Angus cattle, producers, farms, ranches, shows, sales or unusual scenes will be judged on creativity and composition.

Prizes will be awarded in several categories for first, second and third places. Entries will be displayed at the 2002 NJAS in Milwaukee, Wis., and the winning photographs will be published in the September *Angus Journal*.

Photos are to be 8x10-inch (in.) color or black-and-white prints mounted on 11x14-in. black poster board. Contestants must have taken the photos between June 1, 2001, and May 31, 2002. A complete list of rules for the contest will be published in

the March or April *Angus Journal* and posted to www.angus.org/njaa.

Please note that the entry deadline is **June 1**.

Summer internships available

The Association and the *Angus Journal* will offer three summer internships to college students who want to learn more about breed association work. The paid internships begin approximately June 1 and conclude in mid-August. Application deadline is Feb. 15.

Junior activities. The Junior Activities Department employs a college sophomore, junior or senior to assist in the planning and execution of junior Angus shows and leadership events. The intern will have the opportunity to travel and assist with the NJAS and the LEAD Conference. The intern will be expected to perform daily in-office preparation for various junior activities.

Applicants should be majoring in an ag-related field. They need to be detail-oriented and outgoing, work well with all types of people, and be a self-starter. To apply, send your résumé to James Fisher, director.


Public relations. The Public Relations and Communications Department is looking for a junior- or senior-level student majoring in ag journalism or ag communications who has an interest in the livestock industry. Primary responsibilities will include publicizing Angus shows and

activities, including working with black-and-white and color photography and writing news releases, photo cutlines and feature articles. The intern will have the opportunity to travel to various shows and events.

Applicants should have completed course work in news, feature writing, editing and photography. They should be detail-oriented and have some experience with livestock shows. To apply, send résumé, cover letter and writing samples to Susan Rhode, director.

Magazine. The *Angus Journal* offers an editorial internship to a college junior or senior pursuing a degree in ag journalism or ag communications. The intern will assist with feature and news writing, conduct on-farm interviews, report on Angus events and beef industry seminars, and have the opportunity to enhance photography skills.

Applicants should have experience with livestock and should have completed the following courses: reporting I and II, editing, magazine writing or creative writing, and photography or photojournalism. Knowledge of Microsoft Word and/or QuarkXPress would be helpful. Interested students should send college transcript, résumé and writing samples to Shauna Hermel, editor.

Send applications to the appropriate person listed above, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506. For more information, call (816) 383-5100. 

2002 NJAS in Milwaukee

The 2002 NJAS is set for July 8-13 in Milwaukee, Wis. "Under the Big Top" is the theme for the six-day event, which focuses on junior competition, learning and development, both in and out of the showing. Not only is the NJAS the biggest Angus event conducted throughout the year, it is also the largest single-breed beef cattle show in the world.

Look for a complete show schedule and hotel information in the May issue of the *Angus Journal* or in the spring 2002 edition of the *Directions* newsletter. You can also learn more on the 2002 NJAS Web site at www.angusjournal.com/2002njas.

New contests and programs offered during the NJAS

The NJAA Board of Directors is excited to offer two new contests and a mentoring program for the NJAS. The two new contests are creative writing and project of the year.

The creative writing contest is an individual contest. The purpose of this contest is to give junior Angus members the opportunity to develop and enhance their written communication skills. This contest's entries will be submitted to the Junior Activities Department and judged prior to the NJAS, with the awards for the contest presented at the NJAS.

The project of the year contest is a state contest. The purpose of the contest is to allow a state or regional junior Angus association to

display a successful program or project that they have completed within the last year. The project should be conducted to strengthen their junior program, promote the beef industry, promote the Angus breed or promote youth in agriculture. The display will consist of a display board set on a table, one easel for a poster, one three-ring binder with information on the project and one pamphlet giving an overview of the project that can be distributed to people in attendance.

The goal of this contest is for states to share their successful programs and projects — thereby helping other state associations learn from their successes.

A mentoring program will also be introduced at the NJAS this year. It will give juniors of all ages an opportunity to interact with members from different states.

This program will pair older junior members with first-time exhibitors and provide opportunities for them to learn from one another and to share the experiences of the older members with the younger members.

The mentors and the protégés will sign up prior to attending the NJAS to participate in special mentoring program events while at the NJAS.

Changes have also been made to the score sheets for many of the contests. Check out the NJAA Web site at www.angus.org/njaa for complete contest rules and information, or contact the Junior Activities Department and request a contest packet.

