



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Do you know what Valentine's Day truly means?

What comes to your mind when I say Valentine's Day? Well, I think of roses, candy in heart-shaped boxes, those cute valentine cards I got in elementary school and that little mischievous Cupid shooting folks with arrows. But what is the origin of Valentine's Day?



Brandon Walker

I did a little research, and this is what I found. Valentine's Day, or Saint Valentine's Day, originates from the life and death of a Christian martyr — a man who was killed for his faith in Jesus Christ.

But what about all the mushy valentines and association with love around this historic holiday? Well, some authorities credit the famous English poet Geoffrey Chaucer with originating the custom of linking Valentine's Day with lovers. But let's talk a little more about the man from whose name this holiday is derived.

The time was around 270 A.D. The place was the Roman Empire, and the circumstances were grim if you were a

professing Christian. During this time Emperor Claudius II declared all Christians to be illegal citizens. By definition, this made all Christians guilty of treason, because Roman citizens were required by law to worship the Emperor. This requirement, of course, was defied by those bold enough to endure the harsh punishment that would result from their rebellion.

Among the guilty was Valentine, the Bishop of Terni in Umbria, Italy, who historians suggest was imprisoned for performing Christian marriages and assisting Christians in escaping from prison. As a result, Valentine was sentenced to be beaten to death with clubs and to have his head cut off.

Legend has it that prior to his death, Valentine continued to minister in prison, witnessing about the love of Christ to the prison guards. One prison guard had a blind daughter and asked Valentine if his God could help her. Valentine prayed, and the girl was given her sight. As a result, the guard's whole family (46 total) believed and came to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

What would possess Valentine to give up his life without wavering? I think this

brings us to the true meaning of Valentine's Day. God's love compelled Valentine to share the message of Jesus Christ (forgiveness of sins and eternal life) with others and to serve his fellow Christians in their bleak circumstances.

From now on I think I'll see Valentine's Day in a different light. Sure, I'll still send roses and flowers if I can scrape up the cash; I'm a poor college student. And yes, I hope to send and receive valentine cards from my friends and relatives. Yet, I hope you and I will recognize the best and greatest valentine that has ever been sent — the new life God has given us through Jesus Christ, His payment for our sins on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

I leave with you these scriptures.

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." — John 15:12-13

"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers." — 1 John 3:16

— **Brandon Walker, Georgia**

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Accelerated Genetics offers scholarships

Accelerated Genetics, Baraboo, Wis., awards four \$500 scholarships to high school seniors planning to major in agriculture at a short course, vocational technical college or four-year university degree program.

Any high school senior who has participated in a high school ag education program, 4-H or any ag organization is eligible to apply. The applicants or their parents must be currently purchasing semen or products from an authorized Accelerated Genetics representative.

To obtain an application form, visit www.accelgen.com and the "What's New" section or call 1-800-451-9275, Ext. 222. Scholarship applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 2003.

Accelerated Genetics also offers two

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▶ Florida juniors judge at national competition



▶ The 4-H Nat'l Livestock Judging team competed at the North American Int'l Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky., in November 2002. Team members are (from left) **Crystal Hale**, **Brandon Imler**, **Evan Lawrence** and **Amie Taylor**, all from Alachua, Fla., and their coach, **Cindy Sanders** (standing), Alachua County livestock Extension agent. Hale and Taylor are both members of the Florida Junior Angus Ass'n and the NJAA.



▶ **Amie Taylor** is pictured with her award for third-high individual out of 136 contestants at the 4-H judging competition at the NAILE. Taylor was high individual in swine, ninth in beef and 16th in sheep.

\$1,000 scholarships to students already enrolled in a short course, vocational technical college or four-year university degree program.

The collegiate scholarship program is for individuals who have completed their freshman, sophomore or junior year and are majoring in dairy, beef or an ag-related area. The applicants or their parents must be currently purchasing semen or products from an authorized Accelerated Genetics representative.

To obtain an application, view www.ffa.org or contact the National FFA Foundation at (317) 802-4416 or e-mail scholarship@ffa.org. Applications must be postmarked by Feb. 15, 2003.

Angus junior named to All-American team

Jamie King, Tiffin, Ohio, was named to the 2002 University All-American Livestock Judging Team, which was announced at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. Her roles as a communication intern for the Ohio Cattlemen's Association and as the public relations chair for Sigma Alpha assisted her in receiving this award. She is a member of the Ohio Junior Angus Association and is a director on the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board. She is also a member of the Saddle and Sirloin Club and has volunteered for Special Olympics.

Kentucky to host National Junior Angus Show

It's never too early to start making plans

for the 2003 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) this summer in Louisville, Ky. The annual event is scheduled for July 13-19, a change from previously promoted dates. The Kentucky Junior Angus Association (KJAA) and Kentucky Angus Association will host the event in the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center (KFEC). They invite all junior Angus members to the event, "Kentucky — Kool as Can Be in 2003."

The weeklong event, the world's largest single-breed beef cattle show, includes cattle shows, educational contests and the annual meeting of the NJAA.

Junior Angus members will show their bred-and-owned bulls and females, owned females, cow-calf pairs and steers during four days of competition. In addition, a carcass steer competition will take place.

More than 50 exhibitors will compete for top honors in the 37th Annual National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. Contestants for this prestigious event must qualify at the state level and may only compete one time during their show careers.

In addition to the cattle show, various educational contests will take place. Both prepared and extemporaneous public speaking, team sales, poster and quiz bowl contests will be conducted at the show. Photography, graphic design and writing competitions will be evaluated prior to the show, with entries displayed and the winners announced at the 2003 NJAS.

The American Angus Auxiliary will sponsor the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off, to be held at the NJAS. Six members will be elected to the NJAA Board

of Directors at the NJAA annual meeting held during the week.

Look for a show schedule and hotel information in the junior information packet (see next item), in future issues of the *Angus Journal* or in the spring 2003 edition of the *Directions* newsletter. You can also learn more on the 2003 NJAS Web site at www.angusjournal.com/2003njas.

Junior entry booklets mailed

Every NJAA member should have received an information packet detailing 2003 junior shows, contests and the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference. This 40-page booklet contains rules, entry forms and information Angus youth need to participate in regional preview shows, regional shows, the NJAS and the LEAD Conference this year.

If you are a junior member who's planning to participate in these events and who hasn't received a packet, contact the Junior Activities Department.

Western Regional deadlines for juniors

Juniors planning to show cattle at the Western Regional Junior Angus Show need to act now 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 were included in the 2003 junior information packet. The Western Regional is set for April 25-27, 2003, in Reno, Nev., in conjunction with the Western National Angus Futurity (WNAF).

Fort Worth is site for LEAD Conference

The NJAA will hold its annual LEAD Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, July 31-Aug. 1, 2003. Juniors ages 14-21 are eligible to attend the conference, which focuses on leadership, personal development and industry education. The theme for the event is "Discover Your Worth."

For more information, look in the 2003 junior information packet, check out the spring 2003 *Directions* newsletter or watch future issues of the *Angus Journal*. Registration deadline is June 15 and applications were included in the junior information packet mailed by the Association.

Nominate advisors and Honorary Angus Foundation recipients now

Any state junior Angus association can nominate its advisors to be honored as the NJAA's 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's junior Angus association. Letters of nomination should be submitted to James Fisher, director of activities and junior activities, 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 Fisher by May 1.

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

Angus Foundation offers junior scholarships

Now is the time for high school seniors who are college-bound or those who are

already taking college classes to work on scholarship applications. The Angus Foundation will award scholarships to 20 deserving junior Angus members who are working toward college degrees. Eighteen juniors will receive \$1,000 scholarships, and two will receive \$3,500 scholarships.

Applicants for the Foundation scholarships must be junior, regular or life members of the American Angus Association and must be less than 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 2003 NJAS, which is set for July 13-19 in Louisville, Ky.

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

All applications are due May 15. Contact

the Junior Activities Department at the Association for application forms, or obtain an application online at www.njaa.info.

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 from application forms that can be obtained from state Angus Auxiliary scholarship chairpersons (see page A4 of the "Auxiliary Yearbook" insert for a list), or from Amy Bellis, American Angus Auxiliary scholarship chairperson, 8232 Woods Road, Orrick, MO 64077; (816) 770-3386; or bellisfamilyfarm@aol.com. Juniors must first be chosen as their state's auxiliary scholarship winner before advancing to the national competition.

The five girls honored with Auxiliary scholarships have the opportunity to compete for the title of Miss American Angus at the 2003 NAILE in November in Louisville, Ky.

