

Next Generation

POSTCARD FROM AN NJAA DIRECTOR

Finding success in the journey

“What do you dream about? Look at the stars. All you gotta do is pick one out. It’s there for you.”

These words to a song by Martina McBride remind me of an important part of life — goal setting. For as long as I can remember, I have set goals for myself, but one particular goal sticks out in my mind as having the most impact on my life.

The summer before my freshman year in high school, while I was attending FFA Alumni Leadership Camp, I heard a quote that, to this day, remains my favorite: “Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss, you’ll still land among the stars.”

At alumni camp the challenge put before me, as well as the other campers, was to set a long-term goal for ourselves and to strive every day to achieve the goal we had set.

The goal I set for myself was to be elected Oklahoma state FFA secretary. Throughout my high-school years I remembered that

long-term goal, and I strove every day to achieve it.

Finally, four years later, the big day came — the day I would find out if my dream would come true. I sat there with my best friend, who was also running for a state office, with butterflies swarming in my stomach. My heart ached to hear my name announced and to be able to rush up on the stage. But, in the short time it takes a gunshot to be heard, I heard another name announced — the gunshot that hit my dream right in the heart.

The goal I had worked so hard to achieve, I felt I had successfully failed.

The lesson I learned from that experience is what makes my favorite quote mean so much to me. To me, my goal of being a state FFA officer represented the moon, and all the steps I took to get there were the millions of stars surrounding it.

About six months after what I thought

was the worst night of my life, I realized that working for it had given me so much for which to be thankful. If I had not set that particular goal and had not striven so hard to achieve it, I would not have met so many wonderful people or been able to accept defeat. So now I think that all the wonderful things I encountered along my path toward reaching that goal represent the millions of stars.

Yes, I always wondered if things might have turned out differently if I had taken a different approach; but I know that God has a wonderful plan for my life, and being defeated just happened to be in His plans for me.

I challenge each one of you to find a dream that means so much to you, and set your goals to help you make your dream a reality. Even if your dream is to make good grades, to win your class at a show, or maybe even to become president of the United States, each of you has the ability and the confidence to achieve whatever you dream.

Be a dreamer. Even if you feel as if you will never achieve it, always know that God has a plan for each of you, and everything will work out in the end. You will always be a winner.

As Walt Disney said, “All our dreams can come true, if we have the courage to pursue them.”

— *Miranda Grissom
Prague, Okla.*

Sunset Valley donates heifer to raise funds for Eastern Regional

The Ohio Junior Angus Association is hosting the 2000 Eastern Regional Junior Show in Lebanon, Ohio, June 23-25, 2000. The juniors will auction a heifer donated by Sunset Valley Angus, Gallipolis, Ohio, prior to the March 18 Angus sale at the Ohio Beef Expo in Columbus. All proceeds from the sale of the heifer will benefit the Eastern Regional Junior Show.

The heifer to be auctioned is Sunset Valley Blackbird 933, an April 10, 1999, daughter of Champion Hill B52 Traveler. Her dam is a daughter of Premier Independence KN. If you can't attend the sale but are interested in the heifer, contact Jerry Ballard, Ohio Angus Association secretary, at (740) 452-8821.



Sunset Valley Blackbird 933

The juniors thank Sunset Valley Angus owner Tim Evans and manager Tom Woodward, and the many others who have been generous in helping sponsor the upcoming event, for their support. If you would like to make a donation to help sponsor the Eastern Regional, contact Edith Luli at (330) 699-5857.

NJAA members earn recognition awards

Seven members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) recently earned their Bronze or Silver awards or both, announced James Fisher, director of junior activities. These awards are the first two of three levels of the National Junior Angus Association Recognition Program, which began in 1972.

Junior Angus members must apply for the awards and meet point requirements in many areas, including participation in showmanship and leadership competitions, the use of performance testing to improve their herds, and progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

LAURA BLUE, Clinton, Wis., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. She is the 21-year-old daughter of Vicki and Terry Blue and is a student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, majoring in animal science.

In addition to exhibiting her Angus at numerous shows on the local, state and national levels, Blue has several animals

enrolled in the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) program. She has served as queen and princess of the Wisconsin Angus Association, is the public relations director for the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1990.

CELESTE DIACON, Alva, Okla., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. She is the 17-year-old daughter of Glenn and Kathy Diacon and is a senior at Alva High School.

She has exhibited her Angus at numerous shows on the local, state and national levels and has participated in the photography and the Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef*[™] Cook-Off contests at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). She also has represented Oklahoma in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest. Diacon is the secretary of the Oklahoma Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1997.

KEVIN GLEASON, Midlothian, Texas, has qualified for the Bronze Award. He is the 11-year-old son of Mike and Kerri Gleason and is a fourth-grader at Ovilla Christian School.

He has exhibited his Angus at numerous shows on the local, state, regional and national levels and has participated in the photography and team-sales contests at the NJAS. Gleason is a director of the Texas Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1997.

MARK GLEASON, Midlothian, Texas, has qualified for the Silver Award. The 14-year-old son of Mike and Kerri Gleason is a freshman at Ovilla Christian School.

Gleason attended the 1999 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference and has participated in the quiz-bowl and team-sales contests at the NJAS. He is the reporter for the Texas Junior Angus Association and has been an NJAA member since 1995.

MELISSA JOHNSTON, Houston, Minn., has qualified for the Bronze Award. The 20-year-old daughter of Dave and Tammy Johnston is a student in animal science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Johnston has exhibited her Angus at numerous local, state and national shows. At the NJAS, she has participated in the speaking, poster and cook-off contests. She has served as president of the Minnesota Junior Angus Association and has been an NJAA member since 1992.

ABBY RAYL, Hutchinson, Kan., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards.

WINNING JUDGES ANNOUNCED

The following were announced as winners of the 99th American Royal Intercollegiate Livestock Judging Contest held in Kansas City, Mo. A total of 25 teams and 125 contestants competed in the event, which was held October 30, 1999, at the American Royal Livestock Show.



Top 10 individuals. Pictured from left are Kyle Colyer, Bruneau, Idaho, first; Jennifer Hotchkiss, West Chester, Iowa, second; Kelly Pollock, Sylvania, Ga., third; Mike Anderson, Garner, Iowa, fourth; Jeff Dalbey, Burlington Junction, Mo., fifth; A.J. Shute, Ottawa, Ill., sixth; Deanna Bloom, Westville, Ind., seventh; Julie Amaral, Modesto, Calif., eighth; Jennifer Nielsen, Phelan, Calif., ninth; and Clay Franklin, Tucumcari, N.M., tenth.



First-place team. Pictured from left are Kansas State University coach Scott Schaake and team members Jason Hoffman, McArthur, Calif.; Kyle Colyer, Bruneau, Idaho; Jennifer Hotchkiss, West Chester, Iowa; Dan Shike, Alexis, Ill.; and Clay Franklin, Tucumcari, N.M.



Second-place team. Pictured from left are Michigan State University team members Eric Shellhouse, Delaware, Ohio; Matt Ritter, Flanagan, Ill.; Deanna Bloom, Westville, Ind.; Stephanie Wesolowski, Chelsea, Mich.; Josh Hofing, Chelsea, Mich.; Shawn Kronner, Mikade, Mich.; and Jason Rowntree, coach.

The 14-year-old daughter of Brad and Lori Rayl is a freshman at Buhler High School.

Rayl has exhibited her Angus at numerous local, state and national shows and has competed in the extemporaneous-speaking, cook-off and team-sales contests at the NJAS. She is a director of the Kansas Junior Angus Association and has been an NJAA member since 1997.

SHARITA SING, Meeker, Okla., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. She is the 17-year-old daughter of Paul and Rita Sing and is a senior at Meeker High School.

She has exhibited her Angus at numerous shows on the local, state and national levels. Sing has participated in the photography and poster contests at the NJAS and has attended LEAD conferences. She is a director of the Oklahoma Junior

Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1992.

YBIC heads to Saint Louis March 16-19

Young cattlemen and cattlemen will want to plan to attend the 2000 Youth Beef Industry Congress (YBIC) March 16-19 in Saint Louis, Mo. Themed "Gateway to the Future — Creating Unity, Creating Demand," the four-day program will feature presentations from industry professionals, a tour of the Purina Mills Research Facility, round-table discussions, and motivational speakers Stewart and Casey Kennedy. The Congress allows young people from various organizations to exchange ideas and share goals with others who are the future of the beef industry.

The YBIC was organized to bring

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concerned youth together working in the interest of the beef cattle industry. YBIC provides these youth with further knowledge and understanding of all segments of the beef industry and allows them to see how the segments are related. It supplies young people with educational and motivational tools needed to develop into agricultural leaders of the future.

All dues-paying NCBA affiliate-organization junior associations are eligible to attend the Congress and to be part of the YBIC membership. YBIC has annual dues that are used to offset Congress expenses. The YBIC is sponsored in part by Purina Mills and the U.S. Beef Breeds Council.

For more information about YBIC or the Congress in March, contact James Fisher, American Angus Association, at (816) 383-5100.



NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERMS UP IN 2000

Melissa Pickrell, chairman—2050 D Stonehenge Court, Bowling Green, KY 42101; (270) 846-3155; wkuaggie@hotmail.com

Julie Dameron, vice chairman—University of Illinois, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Apt. 21, Urbana, IL 61801; (217) 344-6904; jdameron@uiuc.edu

Garrett Pohlman, Foundation director—3601 Apple St., Lincoln, NE 68503; (402) 436-6112; gpohlma1@bigred.unl.edu

Lindsey Trosper, communications director—Stephens College, Box 3331, Columbia, MO 65215; (573) 441-8221; sc2076@sc.stephens.edu

Julie Scarlett, leadership director—202D Lee Hall, NCSU Box 15546, Raleigh, NC 27607; (919) 512-7869; jescarle@unity.ncsu.edu

John Melton, membership/information director—Waterford Place, Unit #36, 393 Oconee St., Athens, GA 30601; (706) 354-4829; worpo@aol.com

TERMS UP IN 2001

Brandon Douglas—PO Box 20575, Cheyenne, WY 82003; (970) 897-2288; dshowangus@hotmail.com

Miranda Grissom—310 S. Monroe, Stillwater, OK 74074; (405) 747-9288; grissom@okstate.edu

Jamie Meyer—3700 W. 19th, Apt. M1, Stillwater, OK 74074; (405) 743-8504; meyerj1@okstate.edu

Sy Olson—170 Ridgeway, Rolling Ridge Park, College Station, TX 77840; (406) 694-7921; sdo6287@unix.tamu.edu

Allison Porter—505 Riverbend Parkway, Apt. 149, Athens, GA 30605; (706) 548-5768; sapallie@aol.com

Sonya Smith—5171 Cainsville Rd., Lebanon, TN 37090; (615) 443-3139