

# Next Generation

POSTCARD FROM AN NJAA DIRECTOR

## Knowledge is power. Read a book.

Hello again from Athens, Georgia!

I am writing this postcard in the middle of January, which brings for me (and many of you) a new semester packed full of activities and schoolwork. Along with each of our classes, we



**John Melton**

will be required to accomplish a number of tasks, including thumbing through page after page after page of textbooks and other class materials. Sifting through this endless sea of words and paragraphs has often sparked a fuse within me. A fuse that often burned to ... well, burn the book I was reading at the time. However, not so long ago a change came over me—one for which I am glad.

**It all started as I began** to pick up books that really pertained to issues and subjects I enjoyed. Instead of being tedious, for the first time in my life I was reading books that dealt with real life and were fun to read. For years I had read this book or that book because my English teacher made me, but now I was really getting into books and learning a great deal from them.

I've been reading about stocks and bonds and the ins and outs of working in Wall Street firms in good years and bad years. I've read about Southwest Airlines and their zany inner culture. I'm currently reading a book on ancient human civilizations. My point to you is that I, John Melton, am now constantly reading.

**For years I have read** the *Angus Journal*, the *Sire Evaluation Report* and other American Angus Association publications, such as performance reports. Because of this I have become somewhat knowledgeable about

Angus bloodlines, recordkeeping and herd management.

I'm certainly not the best, but I've learned because I enjoyed reading this material and continued to read it persistently over the years. As my interests have diversified the past two years that I've been in college, I've found a need to become more knowledgeable in a variety of subjects. Reading has helped me satisfy this need.

You may have heard the quote "Knowledge is power." I believe this to be true, and I guarantee that each of you can hold a more powerful presence in your peer groups by expanding your mind through reading. Whether in a group of Angus breeders or musicians, a group of fishermen or members of your local 4-H clubs, you can stand out by having read about your respective interests. Reading will help you attain knowledge that separates you from those around you.

After Christmas 1999, I had six books in my possession that I felt I must read before going into a work site to intern this summer. I decided to challenge myself to read one book every month in addition to my textbooks and required readings. So far I'm right on track to accomplish this task, though I should probably pick up the pace based upon the length of several of the books I've yet to begin.

**I challenge each of you** to pick up a publication or book each month in addition to your normal workload. I challenge you to read it thoroughly and gain everything you can from it.

The book or publication can be anything you want. I think you will find this challenge satisfying and the rewards immense. Please drop me an e-mail and let me know what you're reading. I'd be happy to reciprocate the favor.

Who knows, we might just end up sharing a little knowledge and making the NJAA a more powerful presence in the beef industry!

—John Melton, Bridgewater, Va.



**Abby Rayl**, Hutchinson, Kan., left, earned her Bronze and Silver awards from the NJAA. Jamie Meyer, NJAA director from Douglass, Kan., presents the awards.



**Gina McCurry**, Sedgwick, Kan., left, earned her Bronze and Silver awards from the NJAA. Jamie Meyer, NJAA director from Douglass, Kan., presents the awards.

### TERMS UP IN 2000

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Officers and Directors of the National Junior Angus Association (front row, l to r) are **Melissa Pickrell**, Paris, Ky., chairman; **Julie Dameron**, Lexington, Ill., vice chairman; **Lindsey Trospen**, Hamilton, Mo., communications director; **Garrett Pohlman**, Norfolk, Neb., Foundation director; **Julie Scarlett**, Snow Camp, N.C., leadership director; and **John Melton**, Bridgewater, Va., membership/information director. Additional Directors (back row, l to r) are **Miranda Grissom**, Prague, Okla.; **Allison Porter**, Jefferson, Ga.; **Brandon Douglas**, Gentry, Ark.; **Sy Olson**, Hereford, Texas; **Sonya Smith**, Lebanon, Tenn.; and **Jamie Meyer**, Douglass, Kan. **James Fisher**, back right, is director of junior activities.

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## Scholarship opportunities for Angus youth

Involvement in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) is not only a great educational opportunity and a lot of fun, but it also qualifies many young Angus enthusiasts for college scholarships. The American Angus Auxiliary, the Angus Foundation, the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Program and the NJAA award scholarships to deserving junior members every year.

The Auxiliary awards 10 scholarships annually, five to males and five to females who are graduating high-school seniors. Recipients are chosen from application forms that can be obtained from state Angus Auxiliary scholarship chairpersons (see the February issue's *Auxiliary Yearbook 2000* insert for a list) or from Jane Ebert, national scholarship chairwoman, at (336) 731-4974; e-mail: eberlee@lexcominc.net. The national application deadline is May 25.

The Angus Foundation will award \$20,000 in college scholarships to 17 deserving Angus juniors. The Foundation's

scholarship program offers 15 scholarships of \$1,000 each and two \$2,500 scholarships to young people who are active in the Angus breed. Applicants must be a junior, regular or lifetime member of the Association, a graduating high-school senior or currently enrolled in college, and not more than 25 years of age. For more information or to request an application, call the Junior Activities Department at (816) 383-5100. Application deadline is May 15.

Applications for the CAB Program/NJAA scholarship are also available from the Association's Junior Activities Department. Graduating high-school seniors or those enrolled in a college or university for the fall term are eligible for the award. Primary course work must be animal science, meat or food science, agricultural communications, or a related field of study. Applicants must have been a member (junior, life or regular) of the American Angus Association. Application deadline is May 15.

## Angus royalty



Representing the Indiana Angus Association as its 2000 royalty are **Ashley Clifford**, Bainbridge, left, princess; and **Elizabeth Thayer**, Lafayette, queen.



Competing for the title of 2000 Miss Kansas Angus Queen, from left, were **Jeana Sankey**, Council Grove; **Elizabeth Jansen**, Lorraine; and **Heather Hopper**, Leonardville, 2000 Miss Kansas Angus. Also pictured is retiring Miss Kansas Angus Queen **Gina McCurry**, Sedgwick.

## New Angus Foundation fund-raiser

The National Junior Angus Association has commissioned the printing of a set of four black-and-white grease-pencil drawings (shown here) from a series of works by Angus artist Frank Murphy. To be offered as the "Profitmaker Prints" collection, these four 11-by-14-inch images were used in the Association's advertising campaign from 1966 to 1970.

The set is available for a \$100 donation to the Angus Foundation. For more information, call the Junior Activities Department at (816) 383-5100.

