

Next Generation

POSTCARD FROM AN NJAA DIRECTOR

Lessons Learned

What are the keys to success? I've been asked this question frequently — during interviews, on applications and at leadership conferences. During my term as Michigan state FFA president, my officer team selected "Keys to Success" as its theme. While I do not claim to be an expert on the subject, I am convinced that lessons learned outside the



Ryan Sweeney

academic setting play a big role in a person's success.

When I was 5 years old, I dreamed of becoming a hockey player. I shared that dream with my parents. Dad didn't hesitate to buy a hockey stick and skates for me. I was excited, and my expectations were high as we shoveled snow from the pond behind our house.

When enough ice was cleared, Dad laced up my shiny, new skates. I was full of anticipation as he helped me to the ice and held my hand as I glided along. It didn't seem that tough until he let go. Within seconds, I crashed to the ice. He helped me up, and I tried again. However, as soon as he let go, I hit the ice with a thud. It was not what I had expected.

Mom came to the pond with her camera. When she arrived, however, things were not as she expected. The fun had disappeared, tears were frozen on my cheeks, and my expectations were crushed. Although I got up and tried to look happy for the pictures, my enthusiasm for hockey was gone.

Sensing this, Mom explained that learning to skate and playing hockey were not absolutely necessary. While there are some things you have to do, like learning to read and how to do math, you could be successful in life without learning to skate. For the moment, that made me feel a little better, and I took off my skates and headed to the house to get warm. Those skates remained in their box for the rest of the winter and the next. I still dreamed of becoming a hockey player, I just didn't talk much about it — until I was 7.

That fall, Mom asked if I would like to play soccer. I told her I wanted to play hockey. She reminded me that to play hockey I would need to learn to skate and

suggested that I take some lessons. Of course, by this time, my shiny hockey skates did not fit, and I had to rent brown figure skates at the rink (not too cool!).

Mom drove me to the arena, helped me lace the skates, and took me to the edge of the ice. I took a few strides. It wasn't so bad. I fell a few times, but so did everyone else. By the end of practice, my confidence had grown, and I looked forward to coming back the next week, except for one thing; I was sure I could do much better if I were wearing hockey skates. Mom said, "We'll have to see about that."

My skating ability improved with each lesson, and all I wanted for Christmas that year was hockey equipment. By the next fall, I was ready to join a team and to embark on my amateur hockey career. I played hockey for seven years and loved every minute of it. *Lesson learned: Don't give up — don't ever give up.*

When I was old enough to join 4-H, I expected that I would show cattle. Mom thought I should show something a little more my size, like sheep or pigs. I couldn't believe it! But Dad understood, and he helped me bring in one of my heifers. Together we tied her and got her halter-broke. We washed and brushed her and brushed her some more. Dad's really big on brushing!

As my first show approached, my expectations grew. Finally, the big weekend arrived, and we hauled my heifer to the show, bedded the stall, and checked in. Dad didn't want me to have my hopes too high, so he told me, "Do your best and have fun. There are a lot of good heifers here, and chances are you won't win."

I looked at him in disbelief and said, "You don't think so?" I had waited eight years for this day, and there was no doubt in my mind that I was going to win. As it turned out, I had the champion heifer and won showmanship. *Lesson learned: In order to succeed, you must believe that winning is possible.*

By age 13, my junior Angus career was underway. As we prepared for the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Louisville, Ky., our advisor suggested that the cook-off team use "Superman" as our theme. That was fine, except for one thing; she wanted me to be Superman.

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I didn't have a problem being Clark Kent. Wearing Dad's old suit, tie and glasses wouldn't be bad. It was the transformation into Superman that concerned me. I was not going to stand before an audience wearing blue tights and a cape! Well, Mrs. Meiburg is pretty convincing. After a great deal of negotiating and a few costume modifications, I agreed to play the part. Guess what? It wasn't so bad after all.

Yes, people laughed, but they were supposed to. We won. But more importantly, I realized that if I could stand before an audience dressed as Superman, I could do just about anything. *Lesson learned: Don't be afraid to take a chance.*

I believe success starts with setting goals. To reach them, you must work hard and never quit. You must believe you can be successful and be willing to step outside your comfort zone. I also realize the common thread is encouragement from family and friends. In fact, that may be the most important *lesson learned*.

—Ryan Sweeney, Mason, Mich.

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North Dakota youth win accolades

Junior Angus members **Mitchell Becker**, Minot, and **Kaylene Subart**, Robinson, were members of the second-place team in the North Dakota Stockmen's Association Youth Fitting/Showmanship Contest. Chris Heins, Driscoll, also was on the team.

The first-place team consisted of Austin Becker, Minot, and Kris and Kyle Petersen, both of Bowbells.

G Bar donates heifer

G Bar Angus, Lodi, Calif., will donate a registered Angus heifer to be auctioned at the Western National Angus Futurity April 29. Proceeds will benefit the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), July 9-14, in Denver, Colo.

The donated heifer is an open September

2000 daughter of Connealy Dateline and Tehama Entella Z267, a daughter of RR Traveler 5204.

G Bar Angus is owned by Greenlaw "Fritz" and Phyllis Grupe and is managed by Tom Wulff. Anyone wishing to bid on this package should attend the auction or contact the Western National office at (208) 858-2163.

Profitmaker prints benefit Angus Foundation

Your \$100 donation to the Angus Foundation qualifies you to receive a set of Profitmaker prints. The set of four black-and-white drawings by renowned Angus artist Frank Murphy makes a great gift for any Angus enthusiast. The prints measure 11 inches (in.) by 14 in. for easy framing, and they make a great accent for any home or office.

Your donation to the Angus Foundation supports youth, education and research in the Angus breed. To order your set of prints or to learn about other ways you can support the Angus Foundation, contact the Junior Activities Department.

Association can help with junior transfers

Juniors who have not received the transfer paper on a purchased heifer should contact the Association at least two weeks prior to the ownership deadline of a particular show. The staff will make every attempt to get the animal transferred on time. Keep in mind that late transfers for the national show, eastern and western regionals, and regional previews are *never* accepted. Please contact the Association before it's too late.

■ **GEORGIA**



Leaders of the Georgia Junior Angus Association in 2001 are (standing, from left) **Chris Tyndal**, Unadilla, director; **John Bramblett**, Jefferson, secretary-treasurer; **Brandon Walker**, Lexington, president; **Alex Tolbert**, Nicholson, vice president; and **Adam Verner**, Athens, director. Other directors are (seated, from left) **Whitney Chitty**, Moultrie; **Kristy Ansley**, Cornelia; **Lindsey Holton**, Camilla; and **Shelly Ansley**, Cornelia.



Georgia Angus royalty for 2001 are (from left) **Whitney Chitty**, Moultrie, Georgia Angus princess; and **Adrian Wiggins**, Waco, Miss Georgia Angus.



Shelly Ansley, Cornelia, (right) was named Outstanding Junior Angus Member. The award was given in honor of Susan Oliver at the 2001 Georgia Angus Association annual meeting and banquet. Allison Porter, National Junior Angus Association communications director, presents the award.

■ **IOWA**

These Iowa Junior Angus Association members were recognized for their showing achievements during 2000. Pictured at the 2001 Iowa Angus Association annual banquet are (from left) **Deah Schulte**, Watkins, Show Bull of the Year; **Drew Schroeder**, Clarence, Show Heifer of the Year; and **Cara Claussen**, Stockton, Show Steer of the Year.



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■ **WISCONSIN**



Wisconsin Angus royalty for 2001 are (seated, from left) **Sarah Robinson**, Wauzeka; **Emily Johnson**, Sun Prairie; **Jaclyn Zimmerman**, Platteville; (standing, from left) **Bethany Kohl**, Waterloo; **Lindsey Weber**, Dousman; and **Dana May**, Mineral Point.



Leaders of the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association are (seated, from left) **Cody Quam**, Lodi, president; **Sarah Robinson**, Wauzeka, vice president; **Amanda Downing**, Waukesha, secretary; and **Keela Retallick**, Glen Haven, show chairwoman. Directors are (standing, from left) **Lindsey Weber**, Dousman; **Emily Johnson**, Sun Prairie; **Jaclyn Zimmerman**, Platteville; **Jill Kozminski**, Dousman; and **Benjamin Kohl**, Waterloo.



All junior Angus members are invited to enter the annual photography contest co-sponsored by the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and the *Angus Journal*.

Photos of Angus cattle or breeders, farms, ranches, shows, sales, or unusual scenes will be judged on creativity and composition. Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third places. All entries will be displayed at the 2001 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Denver, Colo., and the winning photographs will be printed in the September *Angus Journal*.

Photos are to be 8-by-10-inch (in.) color or black-and-white prints mounted on 11-by-14-in. black poster board. Contestants must have taken the photos between June 1, 2000, and May 31, 2001. A complete list of contest rules follows.

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

**2001 JUNIOR ANGUS
PHOTO CONTEST**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NO. (____) _____

AGE DIVISION (as of 1/1/01):
9-13 _____ 14-17 _____ 18-21 _____

PHOTO CATEGORY:
ANIMALS _____ LANDSCAPES _____ PEOPLE _____

PHOTO TITLE _____

NJAA/Angus Journal Photography Contest Rules

1. Contestants must be members of the NJAA.
2. All work must be that of the entrant.
3. Photos are to be 8-by-10-in. color or black-and-white prints mounted on 11-by-14-in. black poster board. Mount completed entry form on the back side, upper left-hand corner of the poster board.
4. Photos must have been taken by the contestant between June 1, 2000, and May 31, 2001. Photos cannot be altered or image-enhanced in any way. Contestants are encouraged to use 35-millimeter (mm) cameras.
5. Photos cannot have been presented for competition at a previous NJAS.
6. There will be three age divisions: ages 9 to 13; ages 14 to 17; and ages 18 to 21 (use contestant's age as of Jan. 1, 2001).
7. There will be three subject categories: animals, landscapes and people. Each entry may apply to no more than one subject category. The contestant should declare in what subject category the photo is to be judged, as the photograph is representative of the contestant's interpretation of the category. Judges, however, reserve the right to move an entry to a more suitable category. Should the contestant already have a photograph in the more suitable subject category, judges are empowered to disqualify a photograph from competition.
8. All photographs should have a central Angus theme.
9. A maximum of three entries per contestant is allowed.
10. Entry deadline is **June 1, 2001**.
11. Additional entry forms are available from the Junior Activities Department.

Complete the entry blank to the left and send entry(s) to:

NJAA Photo contest, c/o *Angus Journal*, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506-2997. For additional entry forms, judge's tips or information, contact the Junior Activities Department at (816) 383-5100.

Important dates and deadlines

APRIL

- 15 Ownership and entry deadline for the Atlantic National Regional Preview
- 27-30 Western Regional, Reno, Nev.

MAY

- 1 Deadline for Honorary Angus Foundation and Advisor of the Year nominations
- 1 Ownership deadline for the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show
- 1 Ownership deadline for the Northwest Regional Junior Angus Preview Show
- 15 Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB)/NJAA scholarship applications due
- 15 Angus Foundation scholarship applications due
- 15 Ownership deadline for the NJAS
- 15 Entry deadline for the Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show
- 15 Entry deadline for the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show
- 24-27 Atlantic National Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Timonium, Md.

JUNE

- 1 Entry deadline for the NJAS
- 1 Outstanding Leadership Award applications due
- 1 Entry deadline for the NJAA/*Angus Journal* Photo Contest
- 15 Deadline for submitting names of state candidates and delegates for NJAA elections
- 15 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference registrations due (early registration deadline)
- 20 Entry deadline for the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Junior Show
- 22-24 Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, Tupelo, Miss.
- 21-23 Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Prineville, Ore.

Note: *American Royal, NAILE and NWSS ownership deadlines are issue dates. All other deadlines are postmark dates.*