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P O S T C A R D F R O M A J U N I O R



Avery Dull

## How will you invest in your operation to ensure longevity?

*We all know the Angus breed didn't grow to the highest level of prestige overnight; nor has the American Angus Association become the leading breed association in just one year.*

The legacy of the Association and the Angus breed has been developed, crafted and evolved over the last 150 years to get to where it is now.

Back in 1873 when George Grant brought the first Angus bulls to America, he had one goal in mind — to improve the future of beef cattle in the United States. This idea of continual

growth and improvement stuck with the Angus breed as it became one of the top-ranked cattle breeds in the country based on phenotypic traits.

After dominating the market with desirable phenotypes, the Association wanted to dive deeper into improving the Angus breed to solidify its rank in the beef cattle industry, by implementing expected progeny differences (EPDs). From then on, the Angus breed was destined for greatness as new and innovative tools and techniques were established. The next step to improving the Angus legacy is through individual Angus breeders who wish to improve the legacy of their own herd.

The American Angus Association has installed several selection techniques for Angus breeders to utilize to improve their cattle operations. One of the newest

tools is the Angus Information Management Software (AIMS), which was designed to help producers easily organize and access their records.

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records. AIMS has opportunity for input of commercial cattle as well as Angus for producers to utilize crossbreeding genetics. The AIMS program allows producers to easily input additional animals or artificial insemination (AI) sires through the Association. AIMS was developed by the Association to ensure the legacy of the Angus breed.

Another important tool for Angus breeders to increase the value of their cattle is AngusLink<sup>SM</sup>. Recently the Association collaborated with IMI Global to create an improved experience for commercial cattlemen. They can enroll in Angus programs, AngusVerified<sup>SM</sup> and Genetic Merit Scorecard<sup>®</sup> (GMS), with IMI to separate their cattle from the rest.

The GMS conveys a genetic snapshot of breeding history

within a producer's herd. The GMS includes three scores: beef score, which predicts genetic potential for feedlot performance and carcass value; feedlot performance score, which looks into an enrollment group's potential for postweaning performance in the feedlot; and grid score, which predicts carcass grid merit.

Each category focuses on different terminal carcass EPDs that many producers already strive to maximize value in. The AngusLink program provides Angus producers who are looking to maximize their carcass quality of their calf crop a way to add more value to their Angus genetics. This added-value program is another great way to ensure the legacy of a producer's cattle operation.

While only two important operation tools were highlighted, there are a multitude of other opportunities for Angus producers to improve the quality of their cattle, their genetics and their operations through the use of Angus-developed programs. These programs were established to help producers reap the many benefits that come with the use of Angus genetics. Visit [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org) to explore more Angus opportunities.

— Avery Dull

## Bronze and Silver Awards

Mataya Kraft, Fort Collins, Colo., has earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Silver award, according to Caitlyn Brandt, events and education director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo. Dakota Allen, Ottawa, Kan.; and Emma Deppe, Vincent, Iowa, have earned the NJAA's Bronze award.

The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the NJAA Recognition Program that began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders must apply for the awards, then meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving the honors. Applicants are evaluated in areas of junior Angus association activities and leadership, participation in showmanship,

contests and shows, using performance testing to improve their herd, and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

**Mataya Kraft** is the 14-year-old daughter of Cheri Kraft. The Fort Collins, Colo., local attends Heritage Christian Academy and is an active member of the NJAA and the Colorado Junior Angus Association.

Kraft's show career has allowed her to compete at the local, state and national level. She has participated in the photography and livestock judging contests at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) and the 2022 mentoring program.

She has also participated in the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference.

Fourteen-year-old **Dakota Allen** is the daughter of John and Kelsey

Allen. The Ottawa, Kan., native attends Paola Middle School.

The Kansas Junior Angus Association member has attended state, regional and national shows. At the NJAS, Allen has competed in the quiz bowl contest and participated in the mentoring program.

From Vincent, Iowa, **Emma Deppe** is an active member of her state junior association. The 17-year-old is the daughter of Sara and Matt Deppe and attends Winterset High School.

Deppe has participated in the quiz bowl contest and mentoring program at the NJAS. In addition, she has attended local and state shows.

She has also submitted weight data the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) and consigned to the Iowa Beef Expo.

## Kansas Angus Futurity Junior Show, Hutchinson, Jan. 21-22



Lauren Frederick, Hutchinson, Kan., won top honors in the senior showmanship division.



Winning top honors in the intermediate showmanship division (from left) are Cohen Navinsky, Winchester, champion; and Jackson McCurry, Colwich, reserve champion.



Winning top honors in the junior showmanship division (from left) are Cooper Woodrow, Emporia, champion; and Avery Mullen, Ulysses, reserve champion.



Winning top honors in the novice showmanship division (from left) are Hallie Mullen, Ulysses, champion; and Molly McCurry, Hutchinson, reserve champion.

## Kansas Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting and Banquet, Hutchinson, Jan. 21



Crowned as Angus royalty (from left) are Addie Haverkamp, Bern, Miss Kansas Angus; and Parris Marsh, Oskaloosa, Kansas Angus ambassador.

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Baylee Wulfkuhle (center), Lawrence, received the Kansas Angus Ass'n Young Angus Producer Scholarship. Also pictured presenting are Jeff Klausmeyer (left), Kansas Angus Ass'n past president, and Darin Huck, Kansas Angus Ass'n president.

PHOTO BY ANNE LAMPE, COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION.

## Dixie National Junior Round-up Angus Show, Jackson, Miss., Feb. 6



Crowned as Angus royalty (from left) are Claire-Mann Taylor, Tishomingo, queen; and princesses Cela-Cathryn Taylor, Tishomingo; Clara Rogers, Guntown; Maggie Farmer, Tupelo; Jalen Holt, Mantachie; and Mollie Vick, Pope.

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