



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

'He's there to hold the horses!'

For hundreds of years, traditions and practices of the beef industry have remained the same. Today we find some of those practices and traditions impractical and even outdated, while others still hold strong, yet may need to be enhanced. My peers on the junior Board and I recently attended the Youth Beef Industry Congress (YBIC) in Denver, Colo. A speaker who I will forever remember was



John McCurry

Gary Teague of Teague Diversified Inc., a feedlot owner and CEO, president and founding member of Cattleman's Collection.

Teague told a story of the British army in World War II. The British army had been suffering severe losses in the European campaign and, as a result, there was a shortage of officers and trained men. Privates often became lieutenants in a matter of days, and new recruits needed to be trained. One incident required a recently promoted lieutenant to train his men on artillery firing, so in order to learn, he went to the firing range to observe.

At each cannon were five men, all with specific duties he understood, except for one man whose job was to stand up and salute each time the cannon was fired. The lieutenant could not figure out why he did such an act and what his role was.

Because of the manpower shortage of the British army he was looking at ways to improve manpower efficiencies. So the lieutenant went up the chain of command asking why the private saluted the cannon. Every officer answered with "that is the way it has always been done, and that is the tradition of the British army."

Frustrated, the lieutenant sought the advice of an older man, obviously a veteran of many years. The lieutenant proceeded to ask why the fifth man just stood there and saluted. The veteran stated, "He's there to hold the horses!"

The moral of this story is that many times, especially in ranching, our industry gets stuck in a rut of doing the same practice over and over for tradition only. My point to you, as a junior member, future cattle rancher and member of the beef industry, is to choose what traditions to hold onto, which to let go, and which ones to enhance! One place where you as a junior member can make positive

changes is through your junior organization. In summary,

- Changes are a must in order to survive in this industry.
- There is no perfect junior association.
- Always strive to make something better.
- Remember, as good as you might think you are, there is always someone better.

As Dave Weber, analyst from Cattle-Fax said, the beef industry has changed more in the last three years than it did in the prior 35. So, that means that change is inevitable, and we must embrace it and be a forerunner in all positive changes. My advice to you is to be a leader by embracing change in your junior associations.

A quote from Winston Churchill that was repeated time and time again during the weekend at YBIC was: "We must take change by the hand, before change takes us by the throat!" This quote set deep with me, and I hope that you think about it. Consider the practices that you and your family operation do, and decide if change is needed or not — and whether through change, you can better your operation and the entire beef industry.

Or are you there just to hold the horses?

— **John McCurry, Burrton, Kan.**

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'Ford Country Scholars' program

Ford Motor Co. and its dealers have announced a new scholarship program, "Ford Country Scholars." During the next three years, the program will provide scholarships of \$5,000 each to high school students in 11 Western states who are enrolling in universities, colleges, community colleges or technical institutes to prepare for careers in rural communities.

States participating in the program include Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

Applications for scholarships are available from Ford dealers in participating states, high school guidance counselors or at www.fordcountryscholars.com.

Scholastic achievement, local community service and career plans that support rural life will be among the qualifications sought.

Eligibility requirements and judging criteria will be included with the application form. Completed applications must be postmarked by **May 17**.

Recipients of the scholarships will be notified this summer.

State junior projects can now compete at NJAS

State and regional junior Angus associations can now participate in the NJAA project of the year contest during the NJAS. The purpose of the contest is to display and share an outstanding project coordinated by the group. The project should promote involvement of the junior members and be conducted to strengthen their junior program, promote the beef industry, Angus breed or youth in agriculture.

Any state or regional junior Angus association can enter a display at the NJAS. Each association may enter only one project. All entries will be judged separately from the booth and cattle displays. Premiums will be awarded for winning entries. For complete rules or more information, go to www.njaa.info or contact the Junior Activities Department.

NJAS junior mentoring program benefits beginners

The NJAS mentoring program is an opportunity for junior Angus members to use their experience at the NJAS to assist first-time exhibitors at the event and gives juniors of all ages the opportunity to meet and interact with members from different states.

To get involved, mark the box provided on the NJAS entry form to indicate you would like to be a mentor or a protégé. Mentors and protégés will be paired before the event and will be from different states. Participants will learn who their partners are at the cattle check-in tables before the show starts. There will be a mixer at the beginning of the event for all participants in the program, and participants will also be recognized at the awards function at the end of the show.

Silent auction benefits the future

A silent auction featuring a variety of Angus treasures will be conducted during the NJAS in Milwaukee. All proceeds from the auction will benefit the Angus Foundation, which supports youth, education and research.

Many valuable items and collectibles will be up for grabs. Semen packages, pieces of fine art and Angus crafts are just a few of the unique items shoppers will find.

All state junior associations are encouraged to donate two items to the auction, and donations from individuals are also accepted. As an incentive, a donation of \$100 will be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 82

► Louisiana



► Louisiana Angus royalty are (from left) **Kristina Frazier**, Oak Grove, 2001 Louisiana Angus Princess; **Katie Hymel**, Vacherie, 2002 Louisiana Angus Princess; **Brooke Kieffer**, Winnfield, 2002 Louisiana Angus Queen; and **Lana Myers**, Jennings, 2001 Louisiana Angus Queen.



► Voting delegates to the NJAA annual meeting in Milwaukee, Wis., this summer are (from left) **Jennifer Ourso**, Donaldsonville, and **Brooke Kieffer**, Winnfield.



► **Brandon Gravois**, Hester, will represent Louisiana at the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest this July in Milwaukee, Wis.



► Louisiana's 2001 Rookie of the Year is **Michael Romero Jr.** (right), New Iberia. **Brian Kennedy**, Louisiana Junior Angus Ass'n advisor, presents the award.



► **Jennifer Ourso** (left), Donaldsonville, received a scholarship from the Louisiana Angus Auxiliary. **Melanie Ourso**, Auxiliary scholarship chairwoman, makes the presentation.



► Officers and directors of the Louisiana Junior Angus Ass'n are (seated, from left) **Brooke Kieffer**, Winnfield, first vice president; **Stephen Bleakley**, Gramercy, second vice president; **Katie Hymel**, Vacherie, third vice president; **Kristen Oaks**, Calhoun, secretary; **Jess Roussel**, Gramercy, historian; (standing, from left) **Ben Greene** and **Matthew Greene**, both of Covington; **Rebecca Gremillion** and **Ashley Gremillion**, both of Plattenville; **Lindsey Broadway**, Natchitoches; **Jessica Edwards**, Jonesville; **Kristina Frazier**, Oak Grove; and **Kolby Kennedy**, Monterey. **Jennifer Ourso** (not pictured), Donaldsonville, is president.

► Iowa



► These junior Angus members were recognized for outstanding showing competition within the Iowa Junior Angus Ass'n during the past year. Pictured are (from left) **Jason Schroeder**, Clarence, Show Bull of the Year owner; **Cara Claussen**, Stockton, Show Heifer of the Year owner; and **Noll Ernst**, Saint Charles, Show Steer of the Year owner.

► Ohio



► Officers of the Ohio Junior Angus Ass'n are (from left) **Holly Irvin**, Hamilton, vice president; **Stephanie Mullett**, Coshocton, secretary; **Jamie King**, Tiffin, president; **Eric King**, Tiffin, treasurer; and **Justin Brosey**, Hamilton, reporter.

▶ NEXT GENERATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 79

made to the state association that donates the highest-selling item to the auction. To donate an item or to get a more specific listing of items available, contact Susan Rhode at (816) 383-5100 or srhode@angus.org.

Ohio Beef Expo results online

The Ohio Beef Expo was March 15-17 at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus, Ohio. This year a new Web site, www.ohiobeefexpo.com, was developed to assist in the promotion and wrap-up of the show. On this site you will find all of the results from each of the breed sales, the junior show and additional highlights of the Expo.

Connors State College takes top judging honors

Connors State College, Warner, Okla., recently took top honors during the Houston Stock Show junior college livestock judging contest. Junior members **Jeff Thayne**, Seguin, Texas; and **Tracy Tomascik**, Buckholts, Texas, contributed to the team's success.



▶ Missouri Angus Breeders' Futurity, Feb. 23, Columbia



▶ Junior showmanship winners are (from left) **Jessica Weigand**, Warrensburg, first; and **Holly Bellis**, Orrick, second.



▶ Intermediate showmanship winners are (from left) **Hope Herd**, Fair Grove, first; and **Brittany Gillig**, Aurora, second.



▶ Senior showmanship winners **Gregory Meier** (left), Jackson, second; and **Edward Creason** (right), Cowgill, first, accept their awards from Laura Main, Missouri Angus queen. These exhibitors also earned the right to represent Missouri in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest at the NJAS.



▶ **Kristyn Griffith** (left), Auxvasse, and **Whitney Trosper** (center left), Hamilton, were awarded Missouri Angus Foundation scholarships. John and Deena Moffitt present the scholarships.

Keep an eye on these junior deadlines

Summer is approaching fast, and so are many deadlines for junior members. Here's a quick list for your reference:

May 10

Application deadline for Auxiliary scholarship.

May 15

Entry deadline for Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, Timonium, Md.

Entry deadline for Central Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Hutchinson, Kan.

Entry deadline for Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Moses Lake, Wash.

Application deadline for Angus Foundation scholarship

Application deadline for Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB)/NJAA scholarship

Ownership deadline for National Junior Angus Show (NJAS)

Ownership deadline for All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Junior Preview Show

June 1

Entry deadline for NJAS

Entry deadline for photography, graphic design and creative writing contests

Application deadline for Outstanding Leadership Award

June 15

Submission deadline for names of state candidates and delegates for NJAA elections

Early registration deadline for Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference

June 25

Submission deadline for NJAA prepared public speaking outline

Juniors Make Plans for 2002 LEAD Conference

by *Shelia Stannard*

As summer approaches, it is time for junior Angus members ages 14 to 21 to make plans to attend the 2002 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference. "From St. Joe to Sacramento — On the Rail to Success," is scheduled for Aug. 1-4 in Sacramento, Calif.

The four-day event will include industry speakers, personal development workshops and tours of California's diverse agriculture. In addition to the educational opportunities, juniors will have the chance to visit with old friends and make new ones from across the country.

"LEAD is designed for the older junior members, to develop their leadership skills and enhance their knowledge of the Angus business and the beef industry," says James Fisher, director of activities and junior activities. "By taking this year's LEAD to the West Coast, we hope we can attract some more juniors in the West and expose others to the diversified agriculture that California has to offer."

Speakers at this year's LEAD will address marketing cattle in the West, the keys to successful communications, and ethics in the showing. In addition, the junior board will conduct workshops that cover writing a professional résumé, country dancing, the cattle harvesting process and being a spokesperson for the beef industry. A day of tours will take the participants through some of the diverse areas of California's agricultural landscape and will include a stop at an Angus ranch. Finally, a motivational speaker will address the group and challenge those attending to be the best agricultural leaders they can be.

Juniors can preregister for LEAD for \$175 before June 15. After June 15, the cost of registration is \$200. Advisors can register for \$125 before June 15, or for \$150 after the early registration deadline. For more information about LEAD, or to register, logon to www.njaa.info or contact the Junior Activities Department at (816) 383-5100.

