

POSTCARD FROM A JUNIOR



Dawson Dal Porto

There is no lucky showstick

At the end of the day, whether you're walking into the showring or walking through your pasture, there is no such thing as luck. It all comes down to hard work and family.

The nights spent doctoring a calf with your dad, long days spent in the show barn getting ready for a show, the long hours and late nights spent with your family in the cattle industry make it all worth it.

The American Angus Association and the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) allow for your family to grow with people all across the nation. The people you meet along the way truly become friends that last a lifetime. No matter where you are, you can always depend on your Angus family to be there. No matter what, all your hard work, time, effort, and the memories you make with your family and friends from across the nation make it all worth it.

— Dawson Dal Porto, California

Bronze and Silver

Trista Bates, Manhattan, Mont.; **Alexa Grau**, Miami, Fla.; **McKayla Raines**, Seaman, Ohio; **Nicole Stevenson**, Joliet, Mont.; and **Madison Weaver**, Ephrata, Pa., have earned the NJAA Bronze and Silver awards through the National Junior Recognition Program, announces Jaclyn Upperman, education and events director of the American Angus Association.

Trista Bates, the 17-year-old daughter of Dan and Amber Bates, is homeschooled through Penn Foster

High School PA. She is a member of the NJAA and the Montana, Washington and Oregon Junior Angus associations. In 2015 she served as a director for the Montana Angus Association.

She has participated in regional and national shows. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Trista participated in the mentoring program in 2010.

She has consigned cattle in the National Western Stock Show Bull Sale and the South Montana Angus Bull Sale.

Alexa Grau, the 20-year-old daughter of Adiala Grau, attends Miami Dade College, where she is studying pre-veterinary sciences. Alexa is a member of the NJAA and the Florida Junior Angus Association, which she has served as historian and ebonette and currently serves as secretary and queen.

She has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Alexa participated in extemporaneous public speaking, photography and quiz bowl contests and the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) Cook-Off. In 2017 she participated in the mentoring program.

She has submitted weight data to the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR[®]).

McKayla Raines, the 17-year-old

daughter of Todd and Melanie Raines, attends North Adams High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Ohio Junior Angus Association, which she has served as shows committee chairman and currently serves as president and Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show fundraising chairman.

McKayla has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. She also participated in the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences in 2016 and 2017.

Nicole Stevenson, the 17-year-old daughter of Doug and Sharon Stevenson, attends Joliet High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Montana Junior Angus Association.

She has participated in state, regional and national shows and has consigned cattle to the Montana Performance Sale and Bull Co-op Sale.

Madison Weaver, the 18-year-old daughter of Tammy and Fred Weaver, attends Cocalico High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association, which she has served as assistant secretary, news reporter, secretary, assistant treasurer and royalty.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Madison participated in

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livestock judging, creative writing and team marketing contests. She also participated in the mentoring program in 2013-2015. In 2015 she was a participant in the LEAD conference.

She has submitted weight data to the AHIR. 

Georgia Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 3, Athens



Hannah Williams (left), Milan, Miss Georgia Angus; and Raegan Gilbert (right), Lula, Georgia Angus princess, were crowned as Georgia royalty.

Editor's Note: Photo is courtesy of the American Angus Association.

Important dates and deadlines

MAY 2018

- 1 Deadline for Gold Award applications
- 1 Outstanding Leadership Award applications due
- 1 Ownership & entry deadline for All-American Angus Breeder's Futurity
- 1 Ownership & entry deadline for Eastern Regional Jr. Angus Show
- 1 Ownership & entry deadline for Northwest Regional Preview Jr. Angus Show
- 1 CAB/NJAA scholarship applications due
- 1 Angus Foundation scholarship applications due
- 15 Ownership & early entry deadline for National Junior Angus Show
- 15 Entry deadline for NJAA creative writing, photography and graphic design contests
- 15 Entry & recipe deadline for All-American Certified Angus Beef® Cook-Off
- 25 Deadline for NJAA public speaking contest speech outlines
- 25 Deadline for career development contest résumés
- 25 Late-entry deadline for National Junior Angus Show (online only)
- 25-27 Atlantic National Junior Angus Show, Timonium, Md.

JUNE 2018

- 1 NJAA Board candidate information due
- 1 Deadline for submitting names of state delegates and showmanship contestants for NJAA elections
- 14-17 Eastern Regional Jr Angus Shows
- 15-17 All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity
- 15 LEAD registrations due (early registration deadline)

Oklahoma Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 11, Oklahoma City



Ryan Callahan (left), Edmond, received the Junior Bred-and-Owned Heifer of the Year Award from Debbie Davis.



Alisa Friesen (left), Arnett, received the Junior Owned Heifer of the Year Award from Debbie Davis.



Victoria Gerken (right), Cashion, was crowned Miss Oklahoma Angus. Also pictured is Alisa Friesen, Arnett, 2017 queen.

Editor's Note: Photos are courtesy of Beth Norvell.