

Talon Interns, Hosts Selected

Chase Brinegar, Ottumwa, Iowa, will intern with Bar 69 Angus Ranch, Belle Fourche, S.D., and Sydney Heims, Monticello, Iowa, will intern with Point Pleasant Angus, Bland, Va.

by Amber Wahlgren, American Angus Association

The 2020 Angus/Talon Youth Education Learning Program interns Chase Brinegar, Ottumwa, Iowa, and Sydney Heims, Monticello, Iowa, will have the opportunity to gain real-world cattle experience this summer.

The Talon Youth Education Learning Program internship is the legacy of the late Camron “Cam” Cooper of the Talon Ranch, Twin Bridges, Mont. Cooper set up the Talon Youth Education Learning Program Endowment Fund through the Angus Foundation in 2009 to be an educational experience for students.

The program pairs Angus youth with working registered Angus breeders and ranches to provide valuable education and work experience for a summer.

“The Talon Youth Education Learning Program is a hands-on program that gives students a unique opportunity,” says Thomas Marten, Angus Foundation executive director. “Interns experience firsthand what it’s like to run a cattle operation every day, which will encourage future cattlemen and women to enter the Angus business.”

Chase Brinegar

Brinegar will intern with Bar 69 Angus Ranch, Belle Fourche, S.D.

“I want to gain more knowledge in recordkeeping and management and

how to maintain a well-documented herd,” Brinegar says. “I also would like to sharpen my skills in breeding cattle with artificial insemination (AI) and heat detection.”

Brinegar is a freshman at Iowa State University, where he is pursuing an animal science degree. His goal is to return home and grow the family farm with his father and brother.

In the summer of 2019, Brinegar worked for Mosher Angus Farms where he worked with Angus cattle and gained recordkeeping and calving process knowledge.

Bar 69 Angus Ranch is a 300-head registered Angus herd on approximately 22,000 acres. Brinegar will learn about nutrition, vaccinations, preconditioning, branding and AI. He will have the opportunity to ultrasound heifers, move cows by horseback and assist with presale operations.

“We do our best to ensure our intern has the opportunity to use their skills and work in their areas of interest,” says Deb Kukuchka, co-owner Bar 69 Angus Ranch. “We work hard but have fun, and because we are so diverse, our interns get to experience many aspects of agriculture.”

Sydney Heims

Heims will intern with Point Pleasant Angus, Bland, Va.

“By completing this internship, I hope to experience practical veterinary tasks, sales preparation and execution, AI and pregnancy-checking,” Heims said. “I want to learn how to determine the best time to sell and learn better ways to keep cattle and farm expense records.”

Heims is a sophomore at Iowa State University, where she is pursuing an agriculture business degree. Her goals are to educate others about how vaccinations in livestock affects the meat, and to find a way to increase the number of Angus beef cattle in the livestock industry.

Point Pleasant Angus is a 170-head registered Angus herd on 230 acres. Heims will work with show cattle and attend regional shows and veterinary visits. She will learn about nutrition, ear tagging, tattooing and herd health. The internship will center around daily care of the cattle, including feeding and grooming, and preparing cattle for shows and production sales. She also will assist with heat detection, mating, and seasonal AI breeding and herd bull clean-up breeding.

“We believe the future of our industry, breed and farm lie in future generations,” says Jennifer Friedel, Point Pleasant Angus owner. “We look forward to mentoring Sydney in both practical ranching skills and personal development.” **AJ**