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POSTCARD FROM A JUNIOR



Eric Schafer

Fresh stories, fresh faces

One of the best and most rewarding parts of my time on the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) so far has been meeting young juniors from around the country. These “fresh faces,” if you will, are the future of our breed, and I have been honored to meet a handful during my short time on the board.

Just a week before writing this piece, at the Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic, I had the opportunity to meet some of these young people during an icebreaker session. The sheer excitement of these young members was infectious.

I remember one young lady telling me with great enthusiasm how she had named her steer after her favorite cartoon character, and how she was so excited she had gotten a pink ribbon in the show. Another young man talked about fitting his first front leg with the guidance of his older brother.

The excitement of these two young Angus enthusiasts was only heightened when I mentioned the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). They will both be attending for their first time and plan to exhibit their

cattle and participate in a few of our youth development contests.

These stories reminded me of my beginnings in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and just how important it is to invest in our youth. I know without the help and guidance given to me during my time in the NJAA, I would not be where I am today.

The fresh faces cultivated through our junior programs are the future of our breed.

Whether it's competing at contests or working at home in the barn, the NJAA provides a great platform for our youth to grow and draws those fresh faces to our Angus family. My own family bought Angus cattle because of the many opportunities available to Angus youth.

The effort made by the American

Angus Association leadership and membership to cultivate our youth is one of the driving factors making our breed as successful as it is. The infectious enthusiasm I spoke of earlier is not just passed down from generation to generation; it is also inspired by the great programs offered throughout the association for both youth and herd development.

With programs like the NJAA in place, I am confident this excitement will not wane in the future. I am honored to play a small part in developing and welcoming the next generation of fresh faces to our Angus family.

— Eric Schafer

RECOGNITION Bronze and Silver Awards

Jonwyn Ayres, Rogue River, Ore.; Emma Burns, Bosworth, Mo.; Isaac Rhode, Stewartsville, Mo.; and Lane Toledo, Visalia, Calif.; have earned the NJAA's Bronze and Silver awards, according to Jaclyn Upperman, education and events director of the American Angus Association in Saint

Joseph, Mo. Ky Curran, Chariton, Iowa; Mya Curran, Chariton, Iowa; Ellie Taylor, Nashville, Ga.; Macy Taylor, Nashville, Ga.; and Burke Tuggle, Attica, Ind.; 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.

Rogue River, Ore., native, **Jonwyn Ayres**, is the 18-year-old daughter of Cara and Tom Ayres' and attends Rogue River Jr./Sr. High School.

As a member of NJAA, she has shown at all levels. Ayres participated in the public speaking, career development, extemporaneous speaking, graphic design, team fitting, team sales, livestock judging contests and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef* (CAB) Cook-Off at the NJAS.

Ayres has served the Montana Junior Angus Association (MJAA) as royalty; the Oregon Junior Angus Association (OJAA) as vice president, treasurer and royalty; and the Western States Angus Association as royalty.

Ayres has also attended Camp Angus, submitted weight data to the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) and consigned cattle to the California Angus Days sale.

Emma Burns, Bosworth, Mo., is the 17-year-old daughter of Russell and Heather Burns. She currently attends Carrollton High School and North Central College.

Burns is a member of the NJAA and the Missouri Junior Angus Association, where she has served as royalty. She was a 2021 Missouri Angus Scholarship recipient.

At the NJAS, Burns has participated in the quiz bowl, photography and skill-a-thon contest. She has also attended the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference, and submitted weight data to AHIR.

From Stewartsville, Mo., **Isaac Rhode** is 18 years old and the son of Jeff and Susan Rhode. He currently attends East Buchanan High School.

Rhode is a member of the NJAA and the Missouri Junior Angus

Association, where he has served as director. At the NJAS, Rhode has participated in the livestock judging and photography contests, as well as the mentoring program.

He has also submitted weight data to AHIR.

John and Kelli Toledo's son, **Lane Toledo**, is 11 years old and attends George McCann Memorial School. The Visalia, Calif., native is a member of the NJAA and the California Junior Angus Association (CJAA), where he has served as historian.

Having shown at all levels, Toledo has also participated in the photography, graphic design and poster contests and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American CAB Cook-Off at the NJAS.

In 2020, Toledo received the Tom Burke Young Angus Achievement Awards Endowment Fund. He has also submitted weight data to the AHIR and consigned cattle in the Partners for Performance Bull Sale.

A Chariton, Iowa, **Ky Curran** is Adam and Sara Curran's 12-year-old. He currently attends Chariton Community School District.

Curran is a member of the NJAA and the Iowa Junior Angus Association (IJAA). He has participated in shows at all levels, including the NJAS, where he was a part of the mentoring program for two years.

Curran's 9-year-old sister, **Mya Curran**, is also being recognized. She currently attends Chariton Community School District.

Mya is a member of the NJAA and the IJAA, where she has served as director. She has also participated in shows at the state and regional level.

Ellie Taylor, Nashville, Ga., is the 13-year-old daughter of Dan and Jenny Taylor and currently attends Berrien Middle School.

Ellie is a member of the NJAA and the Georgia Junior Angus Association (GJAA). She has shown at the local, state and regional level.

Ellie's 18-year-old sister has also earned the Bronze award. **Macy Taylor**, Nashville, Ga., is studying agribusiness at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College.

Macy is a member of the NJAA and GJAA where she has served her state as president and director. At the NJAS, Macy has participated in the livestock judging contest and served as a voting delegate.

Burke Tuggle, from Attica, Ind., attends Attica Junior-Senior High School. He is the 18-year-old son of Kim and Troy Tuggle.

As a member of the NJAA and the Indiana Junior Angus Association, Tuggle has shown at the state and national level, including the NJAS.

Missouri Cattlemen Foundation Awards Scholarships

Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation awarded scholarships to high school seniors and college students at the 53rd Annual Missouri Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show on Jan. 9.

Scholarship recipients were chosen based on communication, leadership and scholastic achievement as well as involvement in their communities and the agricultural industry. Each selected student received a \$1,000 scholarship funded by Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation and its many supporters. Several were endowed scholarships established to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to Missouri's beef cattle industry.

Scholarships were awarded to 24 individuals, with Angus members

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Hannah Anderson, Hallie Bond, Emma Burns, Lauren Gilbert, Rachel Grimes, David Lemmon, Charlotte Lloyd, Abigail Miller and Victoria Washburn being recognized.

Judges selected the top five written applications, and those individuals had in-person interviews with a panel of judges to compete for an additional \$2,000, making the scholarship a total of \$3,000. Gilbert was one of the top two, receiving an additional \$2,000 provided by Governor Mike and First Lady Teresa Parson and the Boone County Cattlemen's Association.

Since 1997, Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation has awarded more than 700 scholarships worth nearly \$750,000.

Henry C. Gardiner Scholarship Winners

Since 2012, the Henry C. Gardiner scholarship has awarded undergraduate scholarships to deserving college students.

A panel of Kansas State University (K-State) faculty and industry leaders review the applications. Finalists are selected and compete in an interview process.

Henry C. Gardiner Scholarships for the 2021-2022 school year have been awarded to Caleb Hildebrand, Stafford, Kan.; Sydney Bowman, Fort Lupton, Colo.; Serena Schotanus, Tipton, Calif.; Gabriella Leone, Fowler, Colo.; and Lindsey Decker, Philo, Ill.

Hildebrand plans to earn his undergraduate degree and enter veterinary school. He hopes to return home to begin a mixed-animal practice and continue to work on his family's farming and ranching operation.

Bowman is a senior with a specialized interest in ruminant

nutrition. Her career interests focus on the cattle feeding industry, and she plans to continue her postgraduate education and pursue a master's degree in ruminant nutrition with an emphasis on feedlot cattle and rumen microbiology.

Schotanus has been accepted into the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine Early Admissions Program. Upon completing her undergraduate requirements, she will enter the class of 2026 of veterinarians. Schotanus plans to return to the Tulare, Calif., area as a practicing beef and dairy veterinarian.

Leone is a member of the K-State's Honors Program and livestock judging team. She will earn her degree in animal science-bioengineering and technology before entering medical school. Her goal is to become a medical doctor and return to rural America to practice and raise cattle.

Decker has found a passion for meat and food science. Her interest has expanded as a member of the K-State Meats Judging Team. Upon graduation, Decker plans to enter graduate school. Her career interests include research and ultimately earning a doctorate.

The Henry C. Gardiner Scholarship is possible through the contributions of Gardiner customers, friends and family continuing the legacy of Henry Gardiner. To date, 36 undergraduate students have received \$165,500 in scholarships.

Scholarships are awarded annually to students meeting rigorous criteria and exhibiting a commitment to focus on improving the beef industry and food animal production.

Gardiner Angus Ranch is a family-owned and operated business that produces registered and commercial

Angus cattle. The original ranch was homesteaded near Ashland, Kan., in 1885 by Henry Gardiner's grandfather. Today, the ranch encompasses more than 48,000 acres.

The Gardiner operation sells approximately 2,500 bulls and 2,000 registered and commercial females a year. One hundred percent of the sale offering each year is the result of artificial insemination (AI) or embryo transfer (ET).

Monroe County tops 2021 4-H Meats Judging Contest

The University of Missouri (MU) Extension 4-H State Meats Judging Contest Feb. 20 drew 45 competitors from across the state.

The contest, hosted in partnership with the MU Meat Science Program, provided youth the opportunity to develop and hone their judging skills and explore future career and educational opportunities, Calvert said.

The championship team, from Monroe County, will represent Missouri in the National 4-H Meats Judging Contest this fall at the American Royal.

Angus member Paighton Witt, Franklin County, received seventh place in the senior division. 