

Next Generation

POSTCARD FROM AN NJAA DIRECTOR

Is it truly valued?

How do you make your tough decisions? How do you cherish the life you have? I admit, with every highlight there is normally a pitfall. I do not mean to sound pessimistic; actually, I am optimistic toward the low points in life. We all are dedicated to our commitments, and struggle normally is part of the process.

Right now, I am flying through the clouds with many thoughts running through my mind. First, I would not be up in this plane if I were not aiming to live life to its fullest. I love to travel and to meet new people.

The moment we hit some rough turbulence, my thoughts shift to *orange*. Orange ribbon. I am not the biggest sports fan at Oklahoma State University (OSU); nevertheless, I remember the plane crash that took the lives of 10 men associated with the OSU basketball team at the beginning of this year. The same could happen to me.



Christy Walther

I have had my share of waiting in airports, yet I would rather be delayed in an airport than in a plane high in the sky during a storm. I realize that if my plane were to crash, the chances of survival would be slim. But I cannot stay on the ground, limiting my ability to live life to the fullest.

I am returning to school from a show. I spent my time in the ring helping the exhibitors. I first noticed the number of young exhibitors has grown tremendously. With a smile, I twisted tails, tried to direct exhibitors to the right place and assisted the young exhibitors who had uncooperative heifers.

I realize many of you may not exhibit cattle, but I mention these young exhibitors because the interest they show today may help many of them become the cattlemen of the future. That tells me life is good!

I value my life everyday. I admit, I may dread test days at school, yet I have realized, if I go ahead and learn the material instead of wondering why I need to know it, life will be much easier.

You may wonder why I have jumped from topic to topic within this article and what does the title mean? My life is extremely valuable to me. Do you value yours? I value how my livestock have improved over the years. I value my time with the youth in this industry and want to help them enjoy life as I do.

When I am away from home attending college, I miss going out on warm nights, walking through the pasture with a breeze blowing to check a first-calf heifer due to calve.

Two words sum up my strength in life — *smile* and *laugh!* In some way I try to enjoy each day and make it valuable.

— **Christy Walther, Mount Crawford, Va.**

■ Maryland Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet Dec. 2, Mount Airy



Cortney Hill-Dukehart, Sykesville, was crowned the 2001 Maryland Angus queen. Pictured are (from left) Pamela Velisek, Andrea Warfield, Hill-Dukehart and Donna Full.

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Serving on the Board of Directors for the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) for 2000-2001 are (seated, from left) **Sonya Smith**, Lebanon, Tenn., chairman; **Brandon Douglas**, Cheyenne, Wyo., vice chairman; **Allison Porter**, Jefferson, Ga., communications director; **Sy Olson**, Hereford, Texas, Angus Foundation director; **Miranda Grissom**, Shawnee, Okla., leadership director; and **Jamie Meyer**, Douglass, Kan., membership/information director; (standing, from left) **Christy Walther**, Mount Crawford, Va.; **Jessica Sawyer**, Bassett, Neb.; **Tom Patterson**, Columbus, Mont.; **Heath Johnson**, Corinth, Miss.; **Ryan Sweeney**, Mason, Mich.; and **Brittney Burns**, Kickapoo, Ill.

■ **Michigan Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet
March 11, East Lansing**



These young men and women will lead the Michigan Junior Angus Ass'n by serving on the board of directors this year. Pictured are (seated, from left) **Emily Hogberg**, Mason, president; **Jessica Scrimger**, Clifford, vice president; **Kayla Tuggle**, Ithaca, secretary; **Renee Thelen**, Ann Arbor, treasurer; (standing, from left) **Ricka Boehmer**, Williamston, co-reporter/historian; **Ryan Sweeney**, Mason, past president and NJAA director; **Evan Boehmer**, Olivet, junior livestock representative; **Andrew Foster**, Niles, director; **Scott Heil**, Berrien Center, director; **Rachael Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, director; **Paige Tuggle**, Ithaca, director; **Danielle Foster**, Niles, director; **Erika Boehmer**, Olivet, director; and **Julie Thelen**, Ann Arbor, co-reporter/historian.



Erika Boehmer (left), Olivet, received the Outstanding Junior Member Award. **Evan Boehmer**, Olivet, last year's recipient, presents the award.



Jessica Scrimger (right), Clifford, received the Outstanding Senior Member Award. **Renee Thelen**, Ann Arbor, last year's recipient, makes the presentation.



Michigan Angus royalty are (from left) **Kayla Tuggle**, Ithaca, ebonette; **Jessica Scrimger**, Clifford, 2001 queen; and **Renee Thelen**, Ann Arbor, past queen.



Kay Scrimger (center), North Branch, was presented the Adult Appreciation Award. Making the presentation is **Emily Hogberg** (left), Michigan Junior Angus Ass'n president, and **Ryan Sweeney** (right), Michigan Junior Angus Ass'n past president and NJAA director.



Andrew Foster, Niles, was named the 2000 Premier Breeder and Premier Exhibitor.

■ **Louisiana Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet
March 9, LaCompte**



Denise McFarland (left), Bentley, received the Louisiana Angus Auxiliary scholarship. **Phyllis Rambin** makes the presentation.

■ **Ohio Beef Expo Judging Contest
March 17**

In the Ohio Beef Expo judging contest, junior Angus member **Hyatt Frobose**, Pemberville, won the individual contest in the junior division. In the senior division, **Seth Kohnen**, Celina, placed first individually.

Beth Porteus, Coshocton, was part of the first-place team in the senior division. Other team members were Courtney Lindsey, Kyle Croft and Jade Lowe.

Kohnen was a member of the second-place team in the senior division. Teammates included Erin Weitzel, Jamie Kohnen and Lauren Weitzel.

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■ **West Virginia Angus Ass'n
Annual Meeting
April 14, Weston**



The 2001 West Virginia Angus queen, **Cortney Collins** (left), Tanner, is pictured with Jodi Loudin, Linn, 2000 West Virginia Angus queen.

Juniors earn recognition

The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the National Junior Recognition Program (NJRP), which the American Angus Association began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders must apply for the awards and meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving the honors.

James Fisher, director of junior activities, recently announced several recipients.

Sunny Carlson, Thief River Falls, Minn., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

Carlson is the 21-year-old daughter of Charles and Kathryn Carlson, and she studies elementary education and business at Minnesota State University-Moorhead. She has shown her cattle at the state and national levels. She has participated in the Auxiliary-sponsored *Certified Angus Beef*[®] Cook-Off at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), and she has been the Minnesota Angus queen. She has served as president and secretary-treasurer of the Minnesota Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1992.

Edward Creason, Cowgill, Mo., has qualified for the Bronze Award. He is the 19-year-old son of Denise and Fred Owen, Polo, Mo., and is an animal science student at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

He has shown his cattle at the state, regional and national levels. He has competed in the photography contest at

the NJAS. He is a member of the Missouri Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1998.

Meghan Creason, Cowgill, Mo., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards.

Creason is the 13-year-old daughter of Jerry and Barb Creason. She has exhibited her cattle at the local, state, regional and national levels. She has participated in the Cook-Off at the NJAS and has numerous animals enrolled in the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) program. She is a director of the Missouri Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1995.

Evan Hayden, Nicholasville, Ky., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. He is the 15-year-old son of Gary and Tara Hayden and is a freshman at East Jessamine High School.

He has shown his Angus in numerous shows at the local, state, regional and national levels. He has participated in the photography, quiz bowl and Cook-Off contests at the NJAS. Hayden is a member of the Kentucky Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1996.

Jarrid Herrmann, Dodge City, Kan., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. Herrmann is the 18-year-old son of Mark and Nikki Herrmann and is a junior at Dodge City High School.

He has shown his cattle at the local, state, regional and national levels. He has participated in the photography, poster and extemporaneous speaking contests at the NJAS, and he has several animals enrolled in AHIR. Herrmann serves as a director of the Kansas Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1983.

Joshua Jackson, Salvisa, Ky., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. He is the 16-year-old son of James and Elda Jackson and is a sophomore at Dividing Ridge Farm Home School.

He has participated in numerous Angus shows and the computerized cow-calf game, and he has consigned animals to state and local Angus sales. He has been a member of the NJAA since 1994.

Justin Jackson, Salvisa, Ky., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. He is the 16-year-old son of James and Elda Jackson and is a sophomore at Dividing Ridge Farm Home School.

He has shown his Angus in numerous shows, has participated in the photography

contest at the NJAS and has several animals enrolled in AHIR. He has been a member of the NJAA since 1994.

Abby Janssen, Bloomfield, Iowa, has qualified for the Silver Award. Janssen is the 17-year-old daughter of Alan and Denise Janssen. She is a junior at Davis County High School.

In addition to exhibiting her cattle at the state and national levels, Janssen has several animals enrolled in AHIR. She has served as president of the Southeast Iowa Junior Angus Association and has been a director and the historian for the Iowa Junior Angus Association. She has been a member of the NJAA since 1994.

Heath McPherson, Snow Camp, N.C., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. He is the 16-year-old son of Steve and Tammy McPherson and is a junior at Southern Alamance High School.

He has shown his Angus in numerous shows at the local, state, regional and national levels. He has participated in the graphic design, quiz bowl and team sales contests at the NJAS, and he has attended several Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences. He has served as reporter and as a director of the North Carolina Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1997.

Katelyn Scharpe, Arlington, Minn., has qualified for the Bronze Award. Scharpe is the 16-year-old daughter of James and Myrna Scharpe. She is a sophomore at Sibley East High School.

She has shown her cattle at the state, regional and national levels. She has competed in the Cook-Off at the NJAS and has several animals enrolled in AHIR. She is a member of the Minnesota Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1995.

Christy Williams, Lavaca, Ark., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. Williams is the 17-year-old daughter of Mark and Elaine Williams, and she is a senior at Lavaca High School.

She has shown her Angus in numerous shows at the local, state and national levels. She has participated in the prepared public speaking and team sales contests at the NJAS, and she has several animals enrolled in the AHIR program. She has served as secretary, treasurer and a director of the Arkansas Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1994.

