

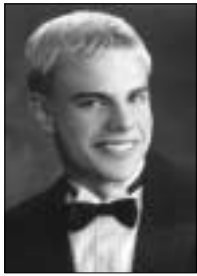


Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Integrity really does matter

“Ted Williams was a baseball great of the 1950s. In 1959 when a pinched nerve in his neck caused his batting average to suffer badly, he was offered the highest salary in baseball history at that time — \$125,000. He sent the contract back to the Boston Red Sox and asked for the largest pay cut allowed, 25 percent. ‘My feeling was that I was always treated fairly by the Red Sox when it came to



Brandon Walker

contracts ... now they were offering me a contract that I didn't deserve.' So Williams cut his salary by \$31,250 — an enormous sum in 1959. Then again, who can put a price tag on a clear conscience? Williams' integrity cost him money, but it also made him a legend — quite apart from his impressive athleticism.” (Jerry White, “The Power of Integrity,” *Discipleship Journal*, 104:34)

Over the past few months, I have struggled to nail down a topic that I would write about for my “postcard from a National Junior Angus Association (NJAA)

director” article. The subject of integrity kept popping up in my mind. *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary* states, “Integrity implies trustworthiness and incorruptibility to a degree that one is incapable of being false to a trust, responsibility, or pledge.”

Not stopping at a textbook definition, I asked several of my closest friends their definition of the word. They responded with the following:

“Integrity is ... honesty, being trustworthy and loyal. It's a combination of the three.”

“It's doing the same thing behind closed doors as you would normally do in front of others.”

“It's doing what is right when nobody is watching.”

There is one common theme that all of these descriptions encompass — character. Character marks a person's identity. It's a description of who that person is. I believe that integrity is the defining attribute of all character.

Dwight Eisenhower said, “The supreme quality for a leader is unquestionably integrity. Without it no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a section gang, football field, in an army or in

an office.” I would add, “in the cattle business,” as well. As cattlemen and women in the beef industry we must embody integrity.

With every farm or ranch name comes a theme or purpose behind it that describes and characterizes it. A farm operation of integrity will be characterized as honest, reliable and predictable. Individuals who have this essential element of character will find their customers coming back to do business year after year.

In my experience with Angus cattle and the showing I have learned that integrity really does matter. Through these venues I've seen my share of dishonesty and even been a part of it myself. I've also witnessed the grim consequences that result from dishonesty. The examples of my parents and grandparents have helped me keep a clear perspective on what it means to be a man of integrity.

“Integrity is the glue that holds our way of life together. We must constantly strive to keep our integrity intact. When wealth is lost, nothing is lost; when health is lost, something is lost; when character is lost, all is lost.” — Billy Graham.

As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, I have learned that being a person of integrity is essential. I desire to honor Christ in everything I do and to tell others about his grace and the love that He freely offers. Yet, if I claim to love Jesus and in turn live a life that contradicts my faith, I dishonor God's name and consequently turn people from the Lord.

The Christian musical group DC Talk is quoted as saying, “The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips then walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.” For Christ's sake, I desire to be a man of integrity.

Perhaps integrity is summed up best in Psalm 112:4-9 (NIV).

“Even in darkness light dawns for the upright, for the gracious and compassionate and righteous man. Good will come to him who is generous and lends freely, who conducts his affairs with justice. Surely he will never be shaken; a righteous man will be remembered forever. He will have no fear of bad news; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord. His heart is secure, he will have no fear; in the end he will look in triumph on his foes. He has scattered abroad gifts to the poor, his righteousness endures forever; his horn will be lifted high in honor.”

— **Brandon Walker, Lexington, GA**

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▶ Kentucky Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Louisville, March 1

▶ Kentucky Junior Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Jillian Warren**, Lebanon, reporter; **Jared Ayres**, Lancaster, treasurer; **Andrew Bell**, New Hope, second vice president; **Lindsay Pennington**, Russell Springs, president; **Susan Toll**, Lawrenceburg, first vice president; **Lauren Moss**, Lancaster, secretary; (standing, from left) **Ericka Waggener**, Harrodsburg; **Kyle Ayres**, Lancaster, reporter; **Justin Jackson**, Salvisa; **Evan Hayden**, Nicholasville; **Nicole Bugg**, Harrodsburg; **Katisha Pickrell**, Augusta; **Nicole Pellicano**, Perryville, reporter; and **Charles Toll**, Lawrenceburg, reporter.



▶ Kentucky Angus royalty are (from left) **Caroline Crowley**, Munfordville, princess; and **Emily Hayden**, Calhoun, queen.

KJAA to raffle artwork

The Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA) is offering Angus enthusiasts the chance to own a unique piece of artwork. KJAA members are selling raffle tickets for a stained-glass picture of an Angus bull.

Proceeds from the ticket sales will go to the KJAA, which is hosting the 2002 Sunflower Showdown Central Regional Preview Junior Angus Show June 14-16 in Hutchinson, Kan. The raffle tickets are \$5 each.

According to Nelson Hager, KJAA advisor, tickets will be available at the Kansas Classic in May, the Sunflower Showdown and the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Tickets also are available by contacting any KJAA member. The winning ticket will be drawn at the NJAS in Milwaukee, Wis.

For more information about the artwork, contact Hager at (620) 793-9179. Logon to www.kansasangus.org for more information about the KJAA or the Sunflower Showdown.

South Dakota stockgrowers offer college scholarships

The South Dakota Stockgrowers Association will award scholarships to students attending an accredited higher education institution in South Dakota. Students must have completed one year of post-high school education and be working toward an agricultural degree.

A printable application form is available on the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association Web site at www.southdakotastockgrowers.org. Students may also contact the South Dakota Stockgrowers Association office at (605)

342-0429 for an official scholarship application.

West Virginia LEAD Conference

West Virginia Junior Angus Association members gathered at the annual state Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference March 1-3. Thirty-five association members, including parents and guests, gathered at Canaan Valley Resort, Davis, W.Va., for the conference.

Saturday started with "getting to know you" energizers. Special guests were James Fisher, director of activities and junior activities for the American Angus Association; and two National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board members, Jessica Sawyer, Bassett, Neb.; and Brittney Burns, Kickapoo, Ill. The rest of the morning was spent developing leadership skills through activities.

On Saturday afternoon members spent time enjoying recreational activities, dinner and time with friends. After dinner, a planning meeting was conducted concerning the 2003 Eastern Regional to be in Lewisburg, W.Va.

The conference concluded Sunday morning with meditations. The West Virginia juniors thank all who helped with the conference and encourage more members to participate next year.

Junior beef leaders gather for YBIC

Speakers from various segments of the beef industry addressed more than 130 junior beef leaders from 28 states during the Youth Beef Industry Congress (YBIC) March 14-16 in Denver, Colo. The event was sponsored in part by the U.S. Beef Breeds Council.

The three-day event allows the leaders of state junior beef associations and national junior breed association boards to interact with one another. The attendees have the opportunity to exchange ideas and share with one another.

This year's event started with a visit to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) headquarters in Colorado. There, representatives from the NCBA, Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB), American National Cattlewomen (ANCW) and Cattle-Fax explained their various roles.

The following day, two panels, moderated by Colorado State University professor Tom Field, spoke to the group about industry changes and what the future holds. "The future you envision, you begin to create today," Field said as he introduced the panel speakers. "These speakers will give you the keys to the future."

Paul Clayton, U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF); Nick Hammett, Future Beef Operations; Alan Sears, Dieter Brothers; and Gary Teague, Teague Diversified Inc., comprised the panel on industry change. Sears, who is marketing director for Dieter Brothers, advised the group not to procrastinate and to think untraditionally, or "outside the box."

The second panel addressed the topic of what the future holds. Dave Weaber, Cattle-Fax; Steve Gabel, Magnum Feedyard; John Maddux, a commercial producer from southwest Nebraska; and Kent Anderson, North American Limousin Foundation (NALF), talked about changes they have seen in the various segments of the beef industry and about changes that could occur in the future. As employers, they

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suggested to the group that communication skills, work ethic, persistence, industry understanding and a passion for what a person does make a person a qualified employee.

After a night of entertainment at Anderson Farm, near Longmont, Colo., the group attended two final workshops. Kevin Oschner, a motivational speaker who has been involved in the cattle business, presented a public speaking workshop. His brother, Keaton, presented proper parliamentary procedure techniques to the group. Kevin left the group with closing remarks and the challenge to take advantage of the opportunities that life offers.

“Invest in people, and great things will happen,” he told the group during its final assembly. “If you are going to be successful, you have to be an active participant. Make a commitment, and take action.”

The YBIC was organized to bring concerned youth working in the interest of the beef industry together. YBIC provides these youth with knowledge and

understanding of all segments of the industry and it allows them to learn how the segments are related.

LEAD Conference has juniors on the rail to success

Juniors age 14 and older should register now for the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference scheduled for Aug. 1-4 in Sacramento, Calif.

“From St. Joe to Sacramento — On the Rail to Success!” is the theme for the event. Participants will have the opportunity to make new Angus friends, to learn about the newest technologies in agriculture, and to explore the state of California.

Registration materials can be found in the entry packet that was distributed to all active juniors in April or at www.njaa.info. Registration is \$175 for juniors and \$125 for advisors until the June 15 early registration deadline. After that date, registration is \$200 for juniors and \$150 for advisors.



▶ Michigan Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Lansing, March 10



▶ Michigan Junior Angus Ass'n board of directors are (seated, from left) **Jessica Scrimger**, Clifford, president; **Renee Thelen**, Saline, vice president; **Andrew Foster**, Niles, secretary; and **Evan Boehmer**, Olivet, treasurer. Directors are (standing, from left) **Kayla Tuggle**, Ithaca; **Julie Thelen**, Saline; **Ryan Conley**, Olivet; **Nicole Heil**, Berrien Center; **Danielle Foster**, Niles; **Erika Boehmer**, Olivet; **Paige Tuggle**, Ithaca; **Ricka Boehmer**, Williamston; **Emily Hogberg**, Mason; and **Scott Heil**, Berrien Center.



▶ Michigan Junior Angus Ass'n premier exhibitors are (from left) **Erika Boehmer**, Olivet, first; **Andrew Foster**, Niles, second; **Evan Boehmer**, Olivet, third; **Danielle Foster**, Niles, fourth; and **Julie Thelen**, Saline, fifth.



▶ **Ricka Boehmer**, Williamston, is Miss Michigan Angus.