



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Shows are about more than just winning

The hum of turbofans, the humidity of the hot July air, the aroma of show cattle, and the unforgettable sense of excitement take us back to our beloved summer show season, which is rapidly approaching. With my favorite pastime nearing, I am reminded of the summer I realized that there was far more to showing than just winning.

At the time, I was more than likely one of the most competitive 14-year-old showmen around. I thrived on the competitive nature of the show circuit. I loved to win, and I detested any ribbon that was not purple or blue. As far as this young lady was concerned, she was here for the adrenaline rush of being grand champion. Little did I realize I was completely



Lacey Robinson

neglecting the true significance of exhibiting my 4-H project.

You see, two of my very best friends, who are sisters, showed cattle with me through part of my junior show career. As soon as each family would arrive at a particular show, we would rush to see each other — whether it be to gossip or to just see one another's faces. The summer that I was 14, my two

friends moved away; hence they were no longer a part of my show seasons. That summer I became conscious of why my family and other livestock patrons gather year after year at numerous shows.

After my friends were gone, my summer seemed almost empty. I finally comprehended the idea that it is the people we meet and the friends we make and adore that attract us to the show circuit. Yes, we crave the spirited mood of a livestock show, but we would not

be as inclined to do so if our friends were not there to enjoy it with us. We enjoy the handshakes we receive after winning, but would the experience be as pleasurable if there were not a friendly smile on the other end?

As I look back over my junior show career, I have a rainbow of ribbons to show for it. I've placed everywhere from joyous first all the way to humbling last. While the unsightly brown or green ribbons didn't measure up monetarily to those of purple or blue, they actually proved to be more valuable in other ways. Oftentimes the meaningful lessons I gained from such experiences had real life application, which extended far outside the gates of the showing. Respecting others, making sacrifices, working hard to reach goals, and getting up and trying again after defeat are all values that these apparently unsuccessful situations have instilled in me.

So, as you venture out to the shows, whether it's the county fair or the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), do your best and strive for success. Keep in mind, though, that true success as a junior is not measured by how many trophies you come home with, but rather the contribution you make as a state association member and, most importantly, as a comrade. Long after the applause of the championship drive has faded, the life lessons and relationships we've built will remain and prove to be the ultimate prizes.

— **Lacey Robinson, Montgomery City, MO**

► Kansas

► Leaders of the Kansas Junior Livestock Ass'n include (front row, from left) **Zach Conine**, Scott City, president; **Amber Hopper**, Leonardville, vice president; **Emily McCurry**, Burrton, secretary-treasurer; **Megin Santee**, Langdon, public relations director; and **Lynae Beam**, Cuba, queen. Directors are (back row, from left) **Cody Runft**, Scandia; **Heath Bergkamp**, Arlington; **Ryan Eberth**, Basehor; and **Blair Bryant**, Arkansas City.



► Florida



► Leaders of the Florida Junior Angus Ass'n are (front row, from left) **Crystal Hale**, Alachua, princess; **Amie Taylor**, Alachua, queen; **Brittany Peacock**, Marianna, princess; (back row, from left) **Rick Zimmerman**, Lithia, chaplain; **Cori Griffin**, Orlando, treasurer; **Ashley Newsome**, Riverview, vice secretary; **Katie Allen**, Lithia, secretary; **Ju-lianne McCullough**, Balm, vice president; and **R. Roy Pette-way**, Wauchula, president.

Junior members earn NILE scholarships

Two junior Angus members are recipients of collegiate scholarships from the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE), each in the amount of \$500.

Alisha Herdegen-Gullickson, Alexander, N.D., is the daughter of Garvin and Helen Gullickson. Alisha graduated from Alexander Public School and is enrolled at South Dakota State University (SDSU), Brookings, in the pre-veterinary medicine program.

Mark Patterson, Columbus, Mont., is the son of John and Pamela Patterson. Mark graduated from Columbus High School and plans to attend Montana State University-Bozeman, where he will major in ag business and computer science.

Seven scholarships were awarded overall.

Sign up now for LEAD Conference

Juniors ages 14 and older should register now for the NJAA Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, set 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, learn about the newest technologies in agriculture, and explore California.

Registration materials can be found in the entry packet that was distributed to all active juniors this spring or at www.njaa.info. Registration is \$200 for juniors and \$150 for advisors. Call the Junior Activities Department for more information.

NWSS makes junior show changes

Juniors should take note that two changes have been made to the rules for the junior Angus show at the 2003 National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo.

► The ownership deadline has been

changed from Oct. 1, 2002, to Nov. 1, 2002.

► A cow-calf class has been added to the show.

Junior deadlines for American Royal, North American

The ownership deadline is Aug. 1 for the Angus junior shows at the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., and at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. The junior exhibitor must be the sole owner of the animal by Aug. 1, as listed on the certificate. To be eligible to show, issue dates on the certificates must be Aug. 1 or earlier.

Entry deadline for the American Royal is Sept. 20, and the NAILE deadline is Oct. 1. No late entries will be accepted.

Youth can apply for National Beef Ambassador

Beef industry youth ages 16-19 can apply for the National Beef Ambassador Program, which is sponsored and organized by the American National CattleWomen Inc. (ANCW).

The purpose of the program is for youth to learn the nutritional value, the economic value, cooking principles, safe handling and versatile uses of beef and to understand the importance of beef as an agricultural product. Three monetary awards, ranging from \$800-\$2,500, will be awarded, as well as scholarships from ANCW's Foundation.

Contestants will be judged on an illustrated talk about beef and/or the beef industry, answers to a series of industry questions and an interview. Applications can be obtained at www.ancw.org, or by calling Shelle Taylor, National Beef Ambassador coordinator, at (303) 850-3442.

Application deadline is Oct. 1.



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