



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

The lasting lessons of summer

It is that time of year again. Spring is in full bloom and an exciting summer is just around the corner. For many young people summer is a time for rest, relaxation and a nice, long break from the responsibilities of school.

While this period of relief is well-deserved, many aspiring junior Angus members choose not to just sit around and become couch potatoes or to spend their dog days of summer poolside. Instead they welcome the even greater responsibility that comes with developing their summer projects each day and feeling the satisfaction that comes from gaining that experience and personal growth.

As we look toward the events of summer, I think it is important to remember a few key things that will help keep you going on those steamy 100° days and make this summer your best yet.

First and foremost, you must keep a positive attitude. I once heard someone say, "You can complain because roses have thorns, or you can rejoice because thorns have roses." I think this quote shows that by simply choosing to look at the opportunities and the positives within a given situation you can overcome the negative and gain so much more.

Undoubtedly there will be mornings that you don't want to get out of bed to feed your heifer or steer, but that is when you have to remember just how fortunate you are to even be able to live on a farm or ranch. Most people will never get the chance to feel the rough lick of a tongue on their skin, the joy

of getting an animal to take its first steps on the lead or the thrill of receiving a blue ribbon for a job well done. With my last year to participate in junior Angus activities before me, I have gained a whole new appreciation for the opportunities I have been given, and I encourage you not to take them for granted.

Next, you must be persistent. My father has often told me, "Rome wasn't built in a day." Sometimes you will get frustrated and discouraged, but don't let that deter you from your end goal. Everyone has days when things just can't seem to go right, and you feel like giving up. Keep in mind that nothing worth achieving ever came easy, and that is what makes it all the sweeter in the end. So don't ever give up, just keep trying.

Now there is a difference in persistence and simply making the same mistakes over and over again, which is where my third ingredient for success comes into play. Over the years I have discovered that oftentimes plain old experience has been my best teacher. Sometimes you just have to jump right in and try, even if it means you might fail. One of my favorite sayings is from Charles Schulz's Charlie Brown, "In the book of life, the answers aren't in the back." With the tools you acquire through watching and listening to others and then putting them into practice, you will gain the skills to tackle the problems and work out the answers. Don't be afraid to try new things, and when

they don't work out like you'd hoped (because at first they usually don't), take a step back and try to learn from that experience so in the future you can make improvements.

When we take all of these experiences we encounter in life and use them to better ourselves and the world around us, we are growing as individuals. Here's an example of how stretching boundaries can lead to amazing growth:

A favorite fish of many hobbyists is the Japanese carp, commonly known as the koi. The fascinating thing about the koi is that if you keep it in a small fish bowl, it will only grow to be 2 or 3 inches (in.) long. Place the koi in a larger tank or small pond and it will reach 6 to 10 in. Put it in a large pond and it may get as long as a foot and a half. However, when placed in a huge lake where it can really stretch out, it has the potential to reach sizes up to 3 feet (ft.).

A comparable analogy can be made concerning people. Our growth is determined by the size of our world. Of course, it is not the world's measurable dimensions that are important, but the mental, emotional, spiritual and physical opportunities to which we are exposed. Realizing that growth comes from the inside and not the outside, we come to the realization that unless we expand who we are, we will always have just what we've got.

So enjoy your time off this summer, and make the most of it. I think you will find that if you can maintain a positive outlook, be persistent in your work, learn from your experiences and grow from them personally, not only will your summer prove to be more productive, you will find that the same principles hold true for nearly everything in life.

— Lacey Robinson, Missouri



Lacey Robinson

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Kiesel to attend National Beef Ambassador competition

Megan Kiesel gave an award-winning performance in the recent Ohio Beef Ambassador contest with her illustrated speech, "Quality Assurance — An Inside Look at What It Is and What It Is Good For." The contest was on March 14 during the 16th Annual Ohio Beef Expo at the Ohio Exposition Center in Columbus. Six contestants presented 5- to 8-minute illustrated talks covering various aspects of the beef industry. Kiesel's performance won the 2003 state contest as well as a trip to the National Beef Ambassador competition in Omaha, Neb.

Megan is the 18-year-old daughter of Scott and Stacey Kiesel of New Riegel, Ohio.

Ohio Angus juniors judge well

On Saturday, March 15, 361 juniors participated in the 2003 Ohio Beef Expo Judging Contest. The Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA), in cooperation with

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▶ 2003 Missouri Angus Breeders' Futurity, Feb. 22, Columbia



▶ Winning top honors in the junior showmanship contest are (from left) **Jessica Weigand**, Warrensburg, first; and **Audrianna Drechsel**, Boonville, second.



▶ Claiming top honors in the intermediate showmanship contest are (from left) **Cody Washam**, Pierce City, first; and **Brett Naylor**, Buffalo, second.



▶ Winning top senior showmanship honors and the right to advance to the Nat'l Junior Angus Showmanship Contest held in conjunction with the Nat'l Junior Angus Show this summer in Louisville, Ky., are (from left) **Brandon Grooms**, Kidder, first; and **Hope Herd**, Fair Grove, second.



▶ From left, Karen Jones, co-committee chairperson, awards two Missouri Angus Foundation scholarships to **Hope Herd**, Fair Grove, and **Chelsea Moffitt**, Kirksville. Roy Jones, co-committee chairman, is also pictured.

▶ 2003 Missouri Angus Ass'n annual banquet, Feb. 22, Columbia



▶ From left, James Fisher, American Angus Ass'n director of activities and junior activities, presents Bronze and Silver awards to **Jessica Weigand**, Warrensburg; **Ashley** and **Brittany Gillig**, both of Aurora; **Kathryn McDonald**, Seneca; and **Zach Kinne**, Eagleville.



▶ Junior Angus members earning their Bronze Awards are (from left) **Sadie Kinne**, Eagleville; **Austin Thummel**, Sheridan; and **Shane Kinne**, Eagleville. James Fisher, American Angus Ass'n director of activities and junior activities, presents the awards.

▶ Minnesota Angus Ass'n annual banquet and meeting, March 25, Rochester



▶ Junior Angus members receiving Bronze and/or Silver awards are (from left) **Peter Scharpe**, Arlington, Bronze and Silver; **Amanda Stai**, New London, Bronze and Silver; **Katelyn Scharpe**, Arlington, Silver; and **Krista Stai**, New London, Bronze and Silver. Krista also received a state scholarship.



▶ **Rebecca Scharpe**, Arlington, receives the first Minnesota State Leadership Award. She has served as the 2001-2003 state junior ass'n president.

▶ **MacKenzie Johnson** of Alden will represent her state as Miss Minnesota Angus for 2003.



▶ **Katelyn Scharpe**, Arlington, is recognized for showing Minnesota's Steer of the Year. **Kim Johnson**, Pipestone (not pictured), was honored with the Heifer of the Year award. Cannon Valley Ranch, the Bruce Waugh family and the Minnesota Junior Angus Ass'n sponsored the embroidered jackets.

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Ohio State University (OSU) Extension, hosts the annual educational event.

Participants evaluated live cattle classes and were required to answer questions covering identification of retail cuts, animal breeds, nutrition and beef quality assurance. More than \$1,000 in awards was given to participants in the judging contest.

In the senior team division Warren County team No. 1 took first place with junior Angus member Stefanie Lutmer, Lebanon, Ohio, and fellow team members Tyler Holden, Becky Wical and coach Greg Meyer.

Lutmer claimed second-high individual in the senior division. Hyatt Frobose, a Pemberville, Ohio, junior member, won first in the senior division.

Martin wins livestock competition

This year marked the 14th anniversary for Missouri's annual Youth Livestock Grading and Judging Contest, March 8, at the Trowbridge Livestock Center in Columbia.

Missouri junior Angus member Lance Martin, Shelbina, won first place in the individual contest division. The contest is

one of the largest of its kind in the nation. The event is designed to improve the state's livestock industry by teaching both youth and adults how to evaluate livestock using U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) grade standards on feeder and harvest cattle and harvest hogs, and the proper practices for keeping or culling cattle, swine and sheep. Traditional livestock judging rounded out the competition.

Angus youth winner in essay contest

Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman on

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▶ 2003 Kentucky Angus Ass'n awards banquet, Feb. 28, Louisville



▶ The Kentucky Junior Angus Ass'n board of directors includes (seated, from left) **Bradley Warren**, Lebanon, treasurer; **Andrew Bell**, New Hope, first vice president; **Ashley Toll**, Lawrenceburg, president; **Lauren Moss**, Lancaster, secretary; **Nicole Pellicano**, Perryville, reporter; (standing, from left) **Charles Toll**, Lawrenceburg, reporter; **Kyle Ayres**, Lancaster; **Jillian Warren**, Lebanon, head reporter; **Nicole Bugg**, Harrodsburg; **Johnathon Nunn**, Canmer; **Ericka Waggener**, Harrodsburg; **Ben Brown**, Woodburn; and **Jared Ayres**, Lancaster.



▶ **Left:** Bud Smith, KJAA advisor, presents **Ashley Toll** (right), Lawrenceburg, an outstanding leadership award.



▶ **Right:** Bud Smith, KJAA advisor, presents **Kristopher Lynn** (right), Springfield, an outstanding leadership award.

▶ 2003 Tennessee Angus Ass'n annual meeting and banquet, March 7, Murfreesboro



▶ Earning Bronze or Silver awards from the National Junior Angus Ass'n are (from left) **Philip Warfield**, Andersonville, Bronze; **Laura May**, Hurricane Mills, Silver; and **Josh May**, Hurricane Mills, Bronze.



▶ 2003 Tennessee Angus Royalty are (from left) **Sarah Orr**, Greenville, East Tennessee Princess; **Cal-lie Smith**, Lebanon, Middle Tennessee Princess; **Chelsey Warfield**, Andersonville, Tennessee Angus Queen; and **Angela Armstrong**, Unionville, Middle Tennessee Angus Ass'n Princess.

Achievement Award winners

The American Angus Auxiliary recognizes boys and girls for their accomplishments with Angus cattle by awarding them a Certificate of Achievement. While the Auxiliary intended to report all winners in the May youth-focused issue of the *Angus Journal*, not all states had turned in their winners by press time. The *Angus Journal* will publish other Achievement Award winners within the "Next Generation" column, as they are made available.

The following junior members have been awarded Achievement Awards by their state Angus auxiliaries.

Kansas

Jeana Sankey

Montana

Kimberly Arntzen
Zane Barragree
Ashley Berkram
Keith Cowan
Stephane Degner
Katrina Dubs
Greg Goggins
Beth Hooker
Shane Hooker
Rianna Huberty
Mandy Jacobs
Jacki Jacobsen
Kelley Knight
Josh Koch
Austin Malek
Kaleigh Mikkelsen
Jenessa Monson
Kyla Olson
Mark Patterson
Karin Romanchuk
Casey Talkington
Dan Vanek
Pam Vanek
Alex Wheatcroft-Hooker
Amanda Willmore

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April 3 announced the 2003 winners in the sixth annual FFA Risk Management Strategies Writing Contest. Cedar Rapids, Neb., junior Angus member Josh VanDeWalle was one of the top 10 national winners.

In this year's contest, 140 ag students

took the challenge of applying the principle of risk management to their own personal Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs in essays of at least 1,000 words. A panel of independent judges from the USDA, academia, state governments and private industry reviewed the essays.

The purpose of the writing contest is to encourage youth enrolled in ag education to become aware of the new risk environment in agriculture and to help them develop a better understanding of the effective use of risk management tools.

▶ 2003 Michigan Angus Ass'n annual banquet, March 9, Mason



▶ Michigan juniors who received American Angus Auxiliary Certificates of Achievement are (seated, from left) **Evan Boehmer**, Olivet; **Andrew Foster**, Niles; **Julie Thelen**, Saline; **Ricka Boehmer**, Williamston; (standing, from left) **Scott Heil**, Berrien Springs; **Erika Boehmer**, Olivet; **Danielle Foster**, Niles; **Nicole Heil**, Berrien Springs; **Paige Tuggle**, Ithaca; **Renée Thelen**, Saline; **Rachael Vaassen**, Ann Arbor; **Patti Vaassen**, Ann Arbor; **Wren Schroeder**, Deckerville; **Hope Bordner**, Sturgis; **Jenni Wilson**, Gregory; and **Drew Bordner**, Sturgis.



▶ 2003 MJAA officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Evan Boehmer**, Olivet, president; **Andrew Foster**, Niles, vice president; **Julie Thelen**, Saline, secretary; **Ricka Boehmer**, Williamston, treasurer; (standing, from left) **Scott Heil**, Berrien Springs, awards chairman; **Nicole Heil**, Berrien Springs, co-historian; **Danielle Foster**, Niles; **Erika Boehmer**, Olivet, co-historian; **Paige Tuggle**, Ithaca; **Renée Thelen**, Saline; **Rachael Vaassen**, Ann Arbor; **Patti Vaassen**, Ann Arbor; **Hope Bordner**, Sturgis; and **Drew Bordner**, Sturgis.

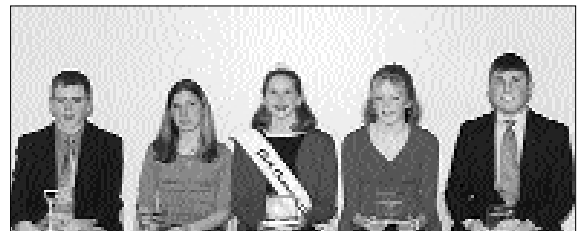
▶ Renée Thelen (right), Saline, presents the 2003 Michigan Junior Angus Ass'n Adult Appreciation Award to **Bill Sheridan**, Mason.



▶ 2003 Outstanding MJAA Senior Member is **Julie Thelen** (left), Saline. **Patti Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, is the Outstanding MJAA Junior Member.



▶ 2002 Michigan junior Angus Premier Breeder Award winners are (from left) **Andrew Foster**, Niles, first; **Julie Thelen**, Saline, second; **Erika Boehmer**, Olivet, third; **Evan Boehmer**, Olivet, fourth; and **Scott Heil**, Berrien Springs, fifth.



▶ 2002 Michigan junior Angus Premier Exhibitor Award winners are (from left) **Andrew Foster**, Niles, first; **Erika Boehmer**, Olivet, second; **Julie Thelen**, Saline, third; **Danielle Foster**, Niles, fourth; and **Evan Boehmer**, Olivet, fifth.



▶ Michigan Angus Royalty are (from left) **Nicole Heil**, Berrien Springs, finalist; **Rachael Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, Ebonette; **Ricka Boehmer**, Williamston, 2002 Miss Michigan Angus; **Julie Thelen**, Saline, 2003 Miss Michigan Angus; and **Wren Schroeder**, Deckerville, finalist.