

Here for the Summer

Interns enter American Angus Association's door, some for the first time, for a summer full of new opportunities.

by Kaci Foraker, editorial intern

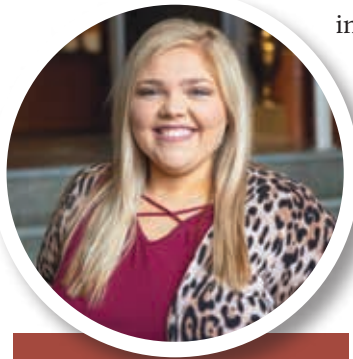
Classes are out for the summer, but five interns are just starting their work. Chesley Comstock, Taylor Dorsey, Harly Durbin, Kaci Foraker and Gabi Ius join the American Angus Association team in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Chesley Comstock

Hailing from Woodward, Okla., Chesley Comstock is one of the events and education interns. Her duties include organizing elements for The All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity, Northwest Regional Junior Preview Show and National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

This fall she will be a senior at Oklahoma State University (OSU) studying both agricultural communications and agribusiness. Comstock is involved with the OSU Chi Omega sorority and serves as an ambassador for the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR).

Being raised on her family's Angus and Hereford cow-calf operation, she was involved with agriculture from a young age.



"Growing up around [cattle] makes you immediately more passionate about the agricultural industry." — Chesley Comstock

"One of my favorite things is driving around and feeding cattle with my grandparents," Comstock says. "Growing up around that makes you immediately more passionate about the agricultural industry."

FFA and 4-H programs introduced her to showing Boer goats and communicating to others about her lifestyle. Throw in Comstock's love for planning events and she says her summer internship perfectly meshes her two worlds of agriculture and organizing and managing events.

"Many times showmen never think about an association's planning work," Comstock says. "Behind the scenes I am seeing a whole new perspective of all the work they do here including DNA testing, computer work and much more. Sometimes showmen just think of the Association as membership, but it's more, and I am excited to see all that goes with it."

Taylor Dorsey

Taylor Dorsey from Eaton, Colo., is also serving as an events and education intern. She organizes youth contests and assists with the production of various events.

In May 2019 she graduated with a bachelor's degree in animal science from OSU. She would like to apply her degree and expertise in a full-time position at an association.

Dorsey became involved with breed associations through the American Junior Maine-Anjou Association board, for which she is currently the vice president. She has been around cattle her whole life and showed at state, regional and national levels.



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Though she may be entering into a different cattle breed's territory, Dorsey brings her enthusiasm devoted toward involving youth in the agricultural industry at shows, conferences and other youth-centered events.

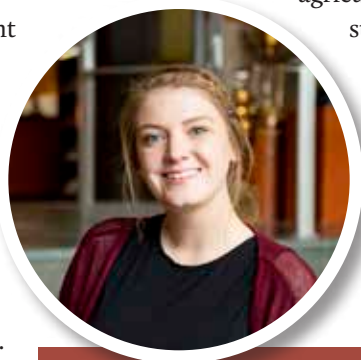
"I'm excited to learn about all the preparation work that goes into making a show happen and getting to meet a lot of the juniors and breeders in Angus," Dorsey says. "I have known about the different associations through my involvement with the industry, and I saw this internship as a great opportunity to learn more about a different breed."

Harly Durbin

Originally from Fort Worth, Texas, Harly Durbin is interning with Angus Genetics, Inc. (AGI) this summer. Durbin spends her time analyzing genomic data to learn more about Angus genetics and environmental stressors across regions.

At the University of Missouri (MU), Durbin is a doctoral student focusing her research on hair shedding as an indicator of heat tolerance in cattle and the evolutionary history of cattle. She first graduated from Texas A&M University (TAMU) with a bachelor's degree in animal science.

Durbin grew up around a commercial Brangus operation and her family has a history rooted in



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— Harly Durbin

agriculture. While on a study-abroad trip to Ireland, an equine genomics class sparked her interest in genetics. Upon finding a new direction, Durbin came back to the U.S. and applied for graduate school.

She is looking forward to finding out what parts of production differ between AGI and research at an academic level.

"AGI is really the only place I could get the skills I want working with large amounts of data and still be in a context I am passionate about: beef cattle," Durbin says. "It's really cool to be at Angus where I am working with a smaller team and directly work with really talented people as well as with breeders."

Kaci Foraker

Kaci Foraker of Burrton, Kan., serves as the editorial intern for Angus Media. She will be writing and editing for the *Angus Journal*, *Angus Beef Bulletin* and the *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA*.

Foraker will be completing dual undergraduate degrees in agricultural communications and journalism and animal sciences and industry from Kansas State University (KSU) in May 2020. On campus, she has been involved with the Agricultural

Communicators of Tomorrow (ACT) as well as the meat judging, meat animal evaluation and livestock judging teams.

She grew up on a small ranch showing market goats and market lambs on a county, state and national level. The 4-H program is where Foraker's interest in agricultural communications started, and her experiences in college have served to continuously strengthen her passion for the industry.

"To advance cattle production, communication among people in the industry is vital, and Angus Media plays an important part in that transmission," Foraker says. "I am looking forward to helping disperse relevant information to the Association's members and expanding my skills as a communicator."



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Gabi Ius

Gabi Ius from Orlando, Fla., joins the Association as a communications intern. Ius composes press releases, creates social media posts and publishes internal communications.

She just completed her sophomore year at Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in Tifton, Ga. Ius plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications and agribusiness in May of 2021. At ABAC, she serves as the secretary for her school's ACT chapter. Ius was a member of her school's National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) team.

"I'm really excited to see how communication is done on the company level, because it is much different than how I have done it

for a college club or with smaller organizations," Ius says. "This internship will help me understand how all the different departments communicate internally, as well as how we talk to Angus producers and consumers."

Ius grew up living in an urban area, but had a small group of chickens and started showing sheep in the sixth grade. From interacting with those livestock animals, she fell in love with the possibilities in the agricultural




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industry and decided to pursue a degree in a related field.

"Basically anything that deals with fighting for the rights of farmers and bringing more knowledge to the consumer about how their food is produced, I am all about it," Ius says. "I am eager to work on different

projects like *The Angus Report* and understand my role in improving the Association's communications." 



This summer the American Angus Association brought on five interns from all over the country for positions in varying departments and entities of the Association, including Angus Media and Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI).