

A Summer with Angus

Six interns begin working with various American Angus Association entities.

by Madi Baughman, editorial intern

Six interns started their summer with the American Angus Association shortly after finishing their spring classes. Kacy Bland, Calah Covey, Sungbong Jang, Muhammad Yasir Nawaz, Madi Baughman and Peyton Schmitt began internships in various Association entities May 18.

Though their summer may look different than years past due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these interns are all continuing to move forward with the Angus family, starting their internships virtually with the goal of eventually coming to the office in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Kacy Bland



Kacy Bland from Lubbock, Texas, is serving as one of the events and education interns. Her

duties include the planning and execution of events for the junior members at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). She is looking forward to her first experience with the NJAS and everything that goes into planning an event of this scale.

“I’m super excited about getting to learn as much as I can about the Association itself and getting to junior nationals, meeting so many of the juniors and hopefully giving back to them like so many people have given back to me,” Bland says.

Now studying animal science at Texas Tech University (TTU), Bland’s passion for the cattle industry started in eighth grade when she began showing cattle, leading to exhibiting at multiple major livestock shows in Texas as well as national shows around the country.

“I’ve grown up in the industry,” Bland says. “I want to stay in the industry for the rest of my career.”

Bland’s plans after college include continuing to expand her family’s cattle operation and eventually working for a major livestock show or breed association.

Calah Covey



Originally from Hamill, S.D., Calah Covey is also serving as an events and education intern.

She will be responsible for facilitating and helping with all the events at the NJAS this summer.

“I’m really excited to be the events and education intern for the American Angus Association,” Covey says. “I’m really excited to learn from some of the best of the industry, and also make an impact on the juniors. When I was a junior, I always looked up to the interns and the staff as role models, and I hope to be a role model for some of the juniors that I’m with this summer.”

Covey attends South Dakota State University (SDSU), studying agricultural communications with a minor in animal science. She was a member of the SDSU livestock judging team.

Growing up on a family cow-calf operation, Covey started her own Hereford operation and competed numerous times at the Junior National Hereford Expo (JNHE).

With a love for livestock photography, Covey plans to work for a breed association one day or be involved in another aspect of livestock marketing.

Sungbong Jang



Sungbong Jang of Ilsan, South Korea, joins Angus Genetics, Inc. (AGI) as a research assistant this

summer. As an AGI intern, Jang will focus on data editing and analysis. He is looking forward to learning more about the beef cattle industry and the Association’s culture.

“American Angus is one of the biggest breeds in the world, so I’m so excited to do my internship here in AGI,” Jang says.

Jang’s curiosity about the beef cattle industry started while working with the beef cattle in South Korea, which led him to obtaining an undergraduate degree in animal

science. Jang says his passion for animal breeding and genetics, however, did not spark until competing in a data competition a few years ago.

Now pursuing a Ph.D. in animal breeding and genetics from the University of Georgia (UGA), Jang plans to further his education in animal breeding and genetics to eventually become a professor.

“My final goal is to go back to my country, be a professor, and contribute to beef cattle and the animal science field,” he says.

Muhammad Yasir Nawaz



Originally from a small dairy farm in Pakistan, Muhammad Yasir Nawaz is also joining AGI as a research assistant

this summer.

Nawaz wants hands-on experience working with AGI's valuable genotypic and phenotypic data, and says he is eager to learn about the functions of a breed organization.

“Specifically, I'm more interested in my research projects that I'm working on,” Nawaz says. “I'm interested in looking at whole genome sequences of Angus cattle, and figuring out how we can increase the accuracy of prediction of phenotypes using whole genome sequence data.”

Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in genetics and genome science at Michigan State University, Nawaz's interest in cattle genomics stems from noticing Pakistan's indigenous cattle species lacking in efficiency, as well as exotic cattle imported from Australia and the United States struggling to adapt to the environment.

His future plans are to work in improving the accuracy of genomic prediction for cattle producers in an industry or government institution role, with the goal of one day returning to Pakistan to aid in improving their indigenous herds.

Madi Baughman



Madi Baughman from Lone Grove, Okla., joins Angus Media as the editorial intern.

Her duties include writing articles, proofreading and taking pictures for the *Angus Journal* and the *Angus Beef Bulletin*®.

She says she is looking forward to learning more about the beef cattle industry through the eyes of a breed association.

“I'm so excited to learn each publication's process and all the work that goes in behind the scenes at Angus Media,” Baughman says. “I have a passion for livestock photography and telling the stories of producers to a wide audience, so I can't wait to continue to develop those passions this summer.”

Now studying agricultural communications and animal science at Oklahoma State University (OSU), Baughman's passion for agriculture stems from her family's past involvement in the industry and her own time spent showing livestock and as a member of the FFA organization.

Baughman plans to continue her family's agricultural legacy by pursuing a career in the industry where she can utilize her knowledge of animal agriculture and communication skills to educate the public on agricultural topics.

Peyton Schmitt



Raised in southeast Iowa, Peyton Schmitt is serving the Association as the communications

intern. Her duties include creating content for internal communications, writing press releases and working closely with the Association's communications team. Schmitt says interning with the Association before she graduated from college has always been at the top of her priority list.

“I really discovered the passion that I have for serving livestock producers, and for what breed associations do in order to provide them with resources and assistance,” Schmitt says. “The opportunity to work for an organization like Angus and being able to use some of my passions as far as being creative as well as serving producers is an opportunity I was really excited about.”

Studying agricultural communications with a minor in animal science at Iowa State University (ISU), Schmitt's passion for agriculture came from her experiences showing Hereford cattle since the age of 6 and her participation in FFA, including being involved with the National Junior Hereford Association (NJHA) and service as a state FFA officer for the Iowa FFA Association.

Schmitt wants to serve breeders by using her creative communication skills to tell their stories, and plans to pursue a career in agricultural communications at a breed association, youth livestock organization or livestock publication while continuing to raise livestock with her family. 