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Walker McDermott

Staying True

In our ever-changing world, it is quite common to see traditions break and history fade. Through the hustle and bustle of work and school, trends coming and going and media being one of the strongest influences on life itself, there is one thing that has always stood the test of time — Angus cattle.

Since the very first Angus bulls arrived in Victoria, Kan., in 1873, history has shown Angus cattle and its breeders hold true to the strong traditions and standards our breed has set.

A tradition the Angus breed holds onto is hosting one of the most memorable and exciting weeks of the summer with the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

The NJAS holds a high standard for creating some of the best memories, friendships and achievements in and out of the show ring. The memories and friendships made run deep into the history of the NJAS.

The first ever NJAS was hosted in Columbia, Mo., in 1969. From 1969 to 1975, bred and owned (B&O) and owned heifers exhibited in the same division. The first national champion Angus heifer was Arts Pride, exhibited by Elizabeth Elliott of Baird, Texas.

The immense amount of quality

possessed by our cattle in the ring today stems back to those first show heifers that helped create a strong foundation of competitive genes, phenotypically and genotypically.

Exhibiting an animal in the show isn't the only thrill of the week. Another big attraction is the highly coveted showmanship contest. Winning top honors in one of the toughest showmanship contests in the country is no small task, and the contest has had the opportunity to highlight some of the best showmen across the country.

The first National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest was hosted prior to the National Junior Heifer Show in 1967 in conjunction with the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity in Lexington, Ky., at Keeneland Race Course. The first champion was Sam Wylie Jr. from Pennsylvania.

The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) green jacket may

not be as old as the Masters, but it is an honorable tradition within the Angus breed. July 20, 1980, was the day the NJAA was established and the first National Junior Angus Board of Directors (NJAB) was elected.

This was during the 12th NJAS in Wichita, Kan. The renowned green jacket has been worn by many of our influential leaders who today continue to inspire the next generation of Angus enthusiasts.

Whether it be new traditions like the Phenotype and Genotype Show (PGS) started in 2020, or traditions stemming back to the 1800s, the Angus breed has planted roots deep into the foundation of agriculture.

The rich history and strong traditions of the Angus breed are why it has flourished and had so much success. Whatever the future may hold for the breed, we will stay true to being always Angus.

— Walker McDermott

RECOGNITION Bronze and Silver Awards

Chance Greene, Powell Butte, Ore.; and Tyler Meier, Jackon, Mo., have earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards, according to Jaclyn Upperman, events and education

director of the American Angus Association® in Saint Joseph, Mo. Elise Meche, Morganza, La., has earned the NJAA's Bronze award.

The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the NJAA Recognition Program that began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders

must apply for the awards, then meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving the honors. Applicants are evaluated in areas of junior Angus association activities and leadership, participation in showmanship,

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contests and shows, using performance testing to improve their herd, and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

Chance Greene is the 20-year-old son of Chad and Rindy Greene. He is studying agricultural education at Oklahoma State University (OSU).

As a member of the NJAA and the Oregon Junior Angus Association (OJAA), Greene shows at all levels and served as a voting delegate at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

He has also submitted weight data to the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) and consigned cattle to the Klamath Bull Sale, Denim & Diamond sale and Central Oregon Livestock Auction.

NJAA and Missouri Junior Angus Association (MJAA) member, **Tyler Meier**, is 10 years old. He is the son of Greg and Lesley Meier and attends Saint Paul Lutheran School.

Meier has participated in shows at all levels. At the NJAS, he has participated in the photography, team sales, quiz bowl, livestock judging and Skill-A-Thon contests and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off.

He has also submitted data to the AHIR. Meier has consigned cattle to the Show-Me Select Heifer Sale, Decades of Design Sale and Missouri Angus Futurity.

Hilary and Jake Meche's 13-year-old daughter, **Elise Meche**, attends STEM Magnet Academy of Point Coupee. The Morganza, La., native is a member of the NJAA and Louisiana Junior Angus Association (LJAA).

In addition to serving her state association as director and royalty, Meche has also shown at all levels. At the NJAS, she has participated in both the photography contest and the mentoring program.

Sure Champ Leadership Team

This marks the second year for the Sure Champ® Leadership Team, a group of outstanding youth selected to receive scholarships to attend one of four leadership conferences.

BioZyme will present each recipient a \$500 scholarship to attend the junior breed association leadership conference they are affiliated with.

Brooke Davis, Lowell, Ind., and Rachel Smith, Osceola, Neb., will attend the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, set July 28 – Aug. 1 in Indianapolis, Ind.

Davis has been active in both the Wisconsin and Indiana Junior Angus Associations. She is serving as the membership director and voting delegate to the NJAA for the Indiana Junior Angus Association (IJAA).

"I love hearing from some of the best leaders in the cattle business as well as the educational opportunities that take place during this event," Davis says. "I always look forward to meeting new people and will continue to bring back great knowledge of the Angus industry and how agriculture is so vital in our day-to-day world."

Theodore Roosevelt is the author of one of her favorite quotes: "Believe you can, and you're halfway there."

With aspirations of joining her dad and owning a registered Angus operation along with a small boutique in the future, this talented young lady is already halfway there.

Smith is a lifelong member of the National and Nebraska Junior Angus Associations, and is passionate about sharing the message of how important agriculture is. She has served as the vice president of both the Nebraska Junior Angus Association and her FFA chapter.

"We are the future of agriculture. It is our responsibility to help keep the bridge between the producer and the consumer wide open," she says. "It is my job to advocate for our industry, and help those who are far removed from agriculture to understand why we do what we do. These leadership conferences help to give me the tools to advocate in a productive way."

A quote by former NJAB Chairman Cory Watt, "Do your best, and let God do the rest," is one that resonates with Smith.

Whether it is making breeding decisions, preparing for contests or helping young people, she's always doing her best.

Ohio Cattlemen's Association BEST Season

At the annual Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) Beef Exhibitor Show Total (BEST) awards banquet, May 1, Columbus, Ohio, more than 350 BEST exhibitors were awarded.

This year's BEST program featured seven weekends of sanctioned shows. More than 592 youth participants showed 850 head this season.

Delaney Jones, champion heifer; Emma Graft, reserve champion; Emma Helsinger, third overall; John Goebel, fourth overall; Luke Leith, fifth overall; and Carly Sanders, fifth overall, were recognized in the Angus breed division.

Camdyn Burns received champion Angus steer, and Ellie Kidwell received reserve champion Angus steer.

In the Buckeye Breeders Series (BBS), champions were recognized as breeders and exhibitors who show cattle bred, born and raised in Ohio. Champion Angus heifer went to Delaney Jones and reserve to Luke Leith. Champion Angus steer went to Ellie Kidwell and reserve to Isaac Miley.

2021 Western Regional Junior Angus Show, April 17, Reno, Nev.



Winning the senior showmanship are Payton Voloshin, Craig, Colo., champion (center); and Trista Bates, Manhattan, Mont., reserve champion (right). Presenting (left) is Ellie Kidwell, Miss American Angus.



Winning intermediate showmanship are Fallon Gohr, Madras, Ore., champion (center); and Taylor Olson, Madras, Ore., reserve champion (right). Presenting (left) is Ellie Kidwell, Miss American Angus.



Winning junior B showmanship are Samantha Prouty, Corning, Calif., champion (center); and Peyton Wood, Montague, Calif., reserve champion (right). Presenting (left) is Ellie Kidwell, Miss American Angus.



Winning junior A showmanship are Chyloh Billman, Blackfoot, Idaho, champion (center); and Lane Toledo, Visalia, Calif., reserve champion (right). Presenting (left) is Ellie Kidwell, Miss American Angus.



Ellie Kidwell (from left) presented awards to top peewee showmen: Haylee Hanson, Ellensburg, Wash.; Austen Crawford, Atascadero, Calif.; and Paisley Crawford, Atascadero, Calif.



Trista Bates won premier junior exhibitor. Pictured (from left) are Ellie Kidwell, Miss American Angus; Bates; and Jonwyn Ayres, Western States Angus queen.



Western States Angus Auxiliary scholarship winners are (from left) Carla Malson, Western States Angus Auxiliary, presenting; Jonwyn Ayres, Rogue River, Ore., Western States Angus Auxiliary scholarship recipient; and Matt Rosman, Creston, Wash., Western States Angus Auxiliary & Nugget Casino Resort Education scholarship recipient. Also presenting was Amanda Flangas, Nugget Casino Resort executive vice president of sales.



Nicholas Sheridan, Terrebonne, Ore., (right) won premier junior breeder. Pictured (left) is Ellie Kidwell, Miss American Angus.



Cindy Kinder (from left), Western States Angus Auxiliary awards chair, and Ellie Kidwell crowned Jonwyn Ayres as the Western States Angus queen. Also presenting was Tarisa Toth, Western States Angus Auxiliary queen chair.



Oregon Junior Angus Ass'n won state group of five.

Editor's note: photos by Katie Colyer, courtesy of American Angus Association.

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