

Next Generation

Postcards from NJAA Directors

Don't forget the "sixth man"

"The great leaders aren't always the ones in the spotlight. Sometimes they sit on the bench and lead the applause."

— *author unknown*

As a kid growing up in the basketball-crazy state of Indiana, I got an annual front-row look at "Hoosier Hysteria" — the phrase coined to explain the religious



Janelle Sommers

following of basketball from December to March. I have to admit, I was pretty "basket crazy" myself at one time.

The neat thing about basketball in Indiana is the support a team gets

from its fans. Family, friends and other fans travel every weekend to cheer on their hometown team — often filling gymnasiums.

National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members are as fortunate as these ball players. We have the support of great Angus enthusiasts from across the country. These wonderful encouragers include parents, advisors and others who contribute to the success of the NJAA. And like the ball players, we juniors are often in the spotlight fulfilling our dreams as they cheer us on from the sidelines.

Wouldn't it be hard to imagine a big basketball game without fans cheering from the sidelines? You bet! Many teams refer to their devoted fans as their "sixth man" because their encouragement and support help keep the team going. In the same way, the NJAA and Angus Foundation wouldn't be successful without the support we get from Angus breeders, the Angus Auxiliary, the American Angus Association and the *Angus Journal*.

Every now and then we juniors need to put the spotlight back on our fans — the individuals who support the NJAA with

their time, finances and energy. The NJAA wouldn't be successful without their help. I encourage each of you, and your state associations, to look for unique ways to thank the individuals who have contributed to your success. The stands are full of these valuable fans, and it is up to us to acknowledge their contributions.

So the next time you receive an award sponsored by a breeder, read about an individual who has supported the NJAA or witness an Angus enthusiast helping juniors, please take time to write or to say thank you. These are the individuals who sit on the bench and cheer while we shine like stars in the spotlight.

— *Janelle Sommers
Silver Lake, Ind.*

Building your foundation

"Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the track of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him."

— *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

Building a strong foundation means that we need to adapt to change and to keep an open mind.

Do you remember your first bull or heifer? I sure do. She was a frame score 9.



Julie Dameron

Now the ideal female has a frame two or three scores lower, and, depending on your environment, it may be even lower.

During the last 30 years, the ideal Angus male and female have changed dramatically, three times. Thirty years ago the ideal Angus was small, compact and fat. In the '80s a larger, taller, narrower and "harder-doing" animal became the ideal. Now breeders are striving for Angus cattle that have muscle, thickness, depth of rib and soundness and that are smaller at birth and gain rapidly.

Of course, our hope for the future is that we can breed a more consistent product and can avoid those extremes that have plagued us in the past.

As I look back at myself as a freshman entering the University of Illinois, I was pretty limited in my focus and my outlook. I grew up in a small farming community where most of the people I knew had strong agricultural interests and backgrounds.

I remember my roommates looking through my family's sale catalog and asking various questions such as, "Do you name all of your cows?" ... "What do you do with them?" ... "Are all of them black?" ... "Why are they all standing a certain way in the pictures?"

I realized as an Angus breeder I could make a difference by communicating my interests to my fellow students. I began to take pride in answering their questions, and they acquired an appreciation for my interests as an Angus breeder.

Be open-minded and learn from the changes and advancements made in the Angus breed. Listen and learn from your predecessors. They helped lay the foundation for the Angus breed, and we, as junior Angus members, must sustain it and continue to improve upon it.

As Edward Weyer Jr. says, "... the future is like a corridor into which we can see only by the light coming from behind."

— *Julie Dameron
Lexington, Ill.*

Be a leader

The Angus breed has the reputation of being a leader in the cattle industry. Being a leader is not easy; it is a huge responsibility. There are certain leadership characteristics



Hutch Porter

that I think we need to exhibit as Angus breeders.

The first characteristic of being a leader is the ability to work with others.

Stanley C. Gault says, "We don't work for each

other; we work with each other."

For example, everyone knows that the commercial cattleman plays an important role in the purebred industry, especially the bull market. As seedstock producers, we need to inform the commercial cattleman of the value of Angus-based cattle and the programs used to produce superior genetics. Then we need to go the extra mile and assist our customers in obtaining a premium for their Angus-based calves.

A good leader has a sense of mission. Our

sense of mission should be to continue to educate cattlemen of the benefits of Angus-sired cattle and the consumer of the quality of our product. The Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Program has created a tremendous market for our product, and carcass expected progeny differences (EPDs) have provided us with a tool to produce cattle that will qualify for this program.

A good leader possesses wisdom. Read as much literature as possible. The American Angus Association does a tremendous job of making programs available to help its members learn about and produce superior genetics. We need to use these tools to constantly improve the predictability of Angus cattle.

A good leader is able to communicate. Become involved in your state Angus association and also your local and state cattlemen's associations. Attend field days and special events, not only to learn, but also to share ideas with other breeders. The Association utilizes the *Angus Journal* as a tool to communicate with its members. Read it to keep up with new ideas, other breeders and what's going on in the industry.

A good leader exhibits courage. A lot of times it is easier to do things the way we've always done them. Be courageous and innovative. The Association or your regional manager is always there to answer questions and to help implement a new program to make improvements in your herd.

A good leader excels in other areas, such as stewardship. Taking something is always easy, but we need to remember to give back. The *Angus Journal* encourages stewardship through a special award given each year to an Angus breeder who has been successful in implementing a good stewardship program.

A good leader needs integrity. We always need to stand behind our product. Honesty is the best policy! Treat your customers as you would like to be treated, and they will be repeat customers. Assist the customer in any way you can.

I am a firm believer that we should not become complacent with our status of being a leader in the cattle industry. We need to exhibit these characteristics and continue to move forward. We have the best product on the market, and we need to continue to educate others to keep our breed No. 1.

— **Hutch Porter**
Jefferson, Ga.

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■ WESTERN STATES SPOTLIGHT



Mercedes Danekas (left), Wilton, Calif., was crowned the 1999 Western States Angus Queen. Also pictured is **Tiffany Callison**, Blackfoot, Idaho, the 1998 Western States Angus Queen.



Laura Hooper (center), Bliss, Idaho, was presented with the Western States Angus Auxiliary Perpetuating Memorial Scholarship. Presenting the award is **Carla Malson** (left), scholarship coordinator; and **Elsie Covey** (right), Western States Angus Auxiliary secretary/treasurer.



Mercedes Danekas (left), Wilton, Calif., received the Jean Neumeyer-Bojorquez Memorial Scholarship. Also pictured is **Cindy Kinder**, Western States Angus Queen chairperson.



Brooke Byrd (right), Red Bluff, Calif., recently earned her Bronze and Silver awards. **Hutch Porter**, NJAA Director, is pictured presenting the awards.

■ MICHIGAN SPOTLIGHT



Officers of the Michigan Junior Angus Association (front row, l to r) are **Ryan Sweeney**, Mason, president; **Emily Hogberg**, Mason, vice president; **Brit Boehmer**, Williamston, secretary-treasurer; **Jessica Scrimger**, Clifford, reporter-historian; and **Renee Thelen**, Ann Arbor, reporter-historian. Directors (back row, l to r) are **Kristina Conley**, Olivet; **Andrew Foster**, Niles; **Kayla Tuggle**, Ithaca; **Melanie Meiburg**, North Branch; **Megan Pendleton**, Belding; **Ricka Boehmer**, Williamston; and **Evan Boehmer**, Olivet.



Michigan Angus royalty (l to r) are **Emily Hogberg**, Mason, 1999 queen; **Kayla Tuggle**, Ithaca, 1999 ebbonette; and **Megan Pendleton**, Belding, 1998 queen.

Michigan's top five junior exhibitors (l to r) are **Andrew Foster**, Niles, first; **Evan Boehmer**, Olivet, second; **Julie Thelen**, Ann Arbor, third; **Rachael Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, fourth; and **Renee Thelen**, Ann Arbor, fifth.



Michigan youth recognized as outstanding members are **Emily Hogberg** (left), Mason, top senior; and **Julie Thelen** (right), Ann Arbor, top junior.

■ VIRGINIA SPOTLIGHT

Officers of the Virginia Junior Angus Association (l to r) are **Margaret Smith**, Lexington, secretary; **Jonathan Barnes**, Dolphin, treasurer; **Jason Michael**, Mt. Solon, president; **Christy Walther**, Mt. Crawford, vice president; **Jonathan Coleman**, Staunton, reporter; and **Julie Jones**, Nelson, historian.



Virginia Angus royalty are **Kate Repair** (left), Glasgow, 1998 queen, and **Nicole Long** (right), Berryville, 1999 queen.



Jonathan Barnes (left), Dolphin, was presented the Outstanding Junior Member Award for members 14 years and younger. Pictured presenting the award is Lawrence Narehood, Virginia Junior Angus Association (VJAA) president.



Tanya Peebles (left), Lawrenceville, was presented the Outstanding Senior Member Award for members 15 years and older. Pictured presenting the award is Lawrence Narehood, VJAA president.



Kattie Stockton (left), Mitchells, was presented with the Outstanding First-Year Member Award. Pictured presenting the award is Lawrence Narehood, VJAA president.



Julie Jones (left), Nelson, was presented with the Premier Junior Exhibitor Award. Pictured presenting the award is Lawrence Narehood, VJAA president.

■ LOUISIANA SPOTLIGHT



Officers of the Louisiana Junior Angus Association for 1999 (l to r) are **Denise McFarland**, Bentley, president; **Emillie Collins**, Bentley, first vice president; **Blaine Esneault**, Paincourtville, second vice president; **Jennifer Ourso**, Donaldsonville, third vice president; **Jennifer Grappe**, Springhill, secretary/treasurer; **Jessica Grappe**, Springhill, historian; and **Stacey Bordelon**, Pineville, shadow historian. Pictured on the right is Harriet Boudreaux, LJAA advisor.

Louisiana Angus royalty (l to r) are **Jennifer Grappe**, Springhill, 1998 queen; **Denise McFarland**, Bentley, 1999 queen; **Kristen Oaks**, Calhoun, 1999 princess; and **Jessica Grappe**, Springhill, 1998 princess.



Directors of the Louisiana Junior Angus Association (seated, l to r) are **Jessica Grappe**, Springhill; **Charles Grappe III**, Springhill; **Kristen Oaks**, Calhoun; **Kassie Kennedy**, Monterey; (standing, l to r) **Nicholas Evans**, Monroe; **Camille Talbot**, Plattenville; **Stephen Simoneaux**, Belle Rose; **Ashley Gremillion**, Paincourtville; **Christopher Bertrand**, Opelousas; **Stacey Bordelon**, Pineville; and **Stephanie Collins**, Bentley.



Louisiana junior Angus members who were honored with American Angus Auxiliary certificates of achievement (l to r) are **Christopher Bertrand**, Opelousas; **Blaine Esneault**, Paincourtville; **Lana Myers**, **Jennifer Grappe** and **Jessica Grappe**, all of Springhill; **Kassie Kennedy**, Monterey; **Charles Grappe III**, Springhill; and **Carroll Boudreaux Jr.**, New Iberia.



Jennifer Grappe (center), Springhill, and **Tara Rambin** (right), Choudrant, were presented Auxiliary scholarships. Presenting the scholarships was Linda Bertrand, Louisiana Angus Auxiliary.



Christopher Bertrand (right), Opelousas, was named Rookie of the Year. Harriet Boudreaux, Louisiana Junior Angus Association advisor, presented the award.

■ **Western National Junior Angus Futurity Showmanship Contest
Reno, Nev.**



Champion senior showman
Sarah Fuller, Twin Falls, Idaho



Champion intermediate showman
Joey Greenberg, Napa, Calif.



Champion junior showman
Rachel Imbach, Canby, Calif.



Top peewee showmen
Britney Creamer Montrose, Colo. Drew Van Roekel Hillsboro, Ore.

NJAA members recognized

James Fisher, American Angus Association director of junior activities, recently announced that two members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) earned their Bronze and/or Silver awards. These awards are the first levels of the NJAA Recognition Program, which was created in 1972.

Junior Angus breeders must apply for the awards and meet point requirements in many areas, including participation in showmanship and leadership competitions, using performance testing to improve their herds and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

Brooke Byrd, Red Bluff, Calif., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. The 17-year-old daughter of Dan & Christine Byrd is a senior at Red Bluff Union High School.

She has shown her Angus in numerous shows at the local, state and regional levels. She has attended both state and national Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences. In addition, she is the reporter of the California Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1990.

Chad Hahn, Rocky Ridge, Md., has qualified for the Bronze Award. The 14-year-old son of Mr. & Mrs. Chester Kerns and of Lewis Hahn Jr. is an eighth-grader at Thurmont Middle School.

He has shown his Angus in numerous shows at the state, regional and national levels. He has participated in the photography contest at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). He is a member of the Maryland Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1996.

Dustin Wiley, Saint Francis, Kan., has qualified for the Bronze and Silver awards. The 16-year-old son of Lyn & Cindy Wiley is a sophomore at Saint Francis Community High School.

He has shown his Angus in numerous shows at the local, state, regional and national levels. He has several animals enrolled in the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR) program. In addition, he has been active in livestock judging and has participated in contests at the state, national and international level, including the 1998 International Livestock Judging Contest in Scotland. He is a member of the Kansas Junior Angus Association and has been a member of the NJAA since 1992.



Cortney Hill-Dukehart, Sykesville, Md., left, recently earned her Bronze Award. Presenting the award is Bill Powell, American Angus Association regional manager.

■ ANGUS ROYALTY



Megan Amdahl, New Underwood, S.D., was crowned the 1999 Black Hills Angus Association Queen.



Gina McCurry, Sedgwick, Kan., is the 1999 Miss Kansas Angus Queen.



Wisconsin Angus royalty (l to r) are **Deanna Hartzell**, Shawano, princess; **Jaclyn Zimmerman**, Platteville, princess; **Emily Hartzell**, Shawano, 1999 queen; **Emily Beere**, Burlington, 1998 queen; **Sarah Robinson**, Wauzeka, princess; and **Jaye Zimmerman**, Platteville, princess.

■ ANGUS LEADERSHIP



Montana Junior Angus Association officers (l to r) are **Tom Patterson**, Columbus, president; **Ray Ramberg Nissen**, Chinook, vice president; **Janna Kay LeMond**, Stanford, secretary-treasurer; **Joe Cook**, Billings, reporter; **Randi Hirsch**, Deer Lodge, queen.

North Carolina Junior Angus Association officers are (seated, l to r) **Ashley Williams**, Kinston, secretary; **Karl Holshouser**, Gold Hill, president; **Phillip Tennant**, Greensboro, vice president; (standing, l to r) **Ginny Pollock**, Kinston, reporter; **Jennifer Stamey**, Statesville, treasurer; and **Heath McPherson**, Snow Camp, central director.



TERMS UP IN 1999

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TERMS UP IN 2000

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Officers and Directors of the **National Junior Angus Association** (front row, l to r) are Janelle Sommers, chairman; Rhonda Nida, vice chairman; Hutch Porter, communications director; Justin (J.W.) McCurry, Foundation director; Diana Covell, leadership director; and Amy Dyar, membership/information director. Directors (pictured back row, l to r) are John Melton, Lindsey Trosper, Julie Dameron, Melissa Pickrell, Julie Scarlett, and Garrett Pohlman.

