

NEXT GENERATION

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POSTCARD FROM A JUNIOR



J. Gordon Clark

Invest in people, embrace technology

The beef industry, and more specifically the Angus industry, is a cornerstone of the global food system, providing food and employment to millions of people worldwide. However, beneath the surface of this vital sector lies a web of complexities surrounding labor practices.

As a producer in the beef industry, you understand that labor plays a pivotal role in the success of your operation. It is crucial to understand and address the challenges associated with labor to foster a sustainable and efficient production system.

At the heart of the beef industry are the individuals who work tirelessly to raise cattle. This labor-intensive process involves demanding tasks such as animal husbandry, pasture management and herd health. Farmers face long hours, unpredictable weather conditions and physical risks associated with working with large animals.

Managing a skilled and reliable workforce is a constant challenge for beef producers. From farm to feedlot, the nature of the industry requires physically demanding tasks and specialized knowledge.

It is essential to attract and retain talented individuals who are committed to the profession. Offering competitive wages, providing training opportunities and establishing a positive work culture can help create a dedicated and motivated workforce.

In an ever-changing world with a narrowing focus on sustainability and technology, we must not sit idly by and watch things progress while our own operations remain stagnant.

Embracing technology can alleviate some labor challenges in the beef industry. Utilizing advancements like automated feeding systems, data analytics and precision farming techniques can enhance productivity, streamline operations and reduce physical labor demands. Investing in modern technologies and encouraging innovation within

your operation can lead to increased efficiency and profitability.

The complexities of labor in the beef industry require proactive measures and strategic thinking from producers. By addressing workforce management, complying with regulations and embracing technological advancements, you can navigate labor challenges more effectively. Creating a supportive work environment that values and respects its employees will not only enhance productivity, but also contribute to the long-term sustainability of your beef production. I challenge producers to stay informed, adapt to changes, and continuously strive for improvements to maintain a thriving and responsible industry.

— J. Gordon Clark

Atlantic National Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, May 27, Timonium

Photos by Next Level Images, courtesy of American Angus Association.



Winning junior A showmanship (from left) are Kinleigh Grim, Thomasville, Pa., champion; Weston Haag, Plymouth, Ind., reserve champion; and James Mullinix, Damascus, Md., third.



Winning junior B showmanship (from left) are Kolton Grim, Thomasville, Pa., champion; Sadie Poole, Staunton, Va., reserve champion; and Rylee Stratton, Appomattox, Va., third.



Winning intermediate showmanship (from left) are Mercedes Ferree, Sullivan, Ind., champion; Kady Harris, Staunton, Va., reserve champion; and Houston Ferree, Sullivan, Ind., third.



Winning senior showmanship (from left) are Mary Wood, Willow Spring, N.C., champion; Kathryn Coleman, Modesto, Calif., reserve champion; and Jack Dameron, Towanda, Ill., third.



Allison Davis, Shelbyville, Tenn., won premier breeder, premier exhibitor and premier junior breeder. Pictured (from left) are Paul Hill, show chairman; Kelsey Theis, Miss American Angus; Tom Burke, show announcer; Allison Davis, recipient; and Chris Wojciechowski, judge.



Mercedes Ferree, Sullivan, Ind., was supreme champion showman. Pictured (from left) are Tom McCall, judge; Cortney Hill-Dukehart Cates, judge; Kelsey Theis, presenting; Ferree, recipient; Marcie Harward, judge; and John Hausner, judge.



The Virginia Junior Angus Ass'n won state group of five.



Angus juniors awarded Atlantic National Merit Scholarships (from left) are Betsie Michael, presenting; J. Gordon Clark, Gretna, Va.; Suter Clark, Gretna, Va.; Allison Davis, Shelbyville, Tenn.; Reese Anderson, Chrisman, Ill.; Ella Jordan, Savannah, Mo.; Mary Wood, Willow Spring, N.C.; Riley Wood, Willow Spring, N.C.; and Deanna Hofing, presenting.

Atlantic National Super Point Roll of Victory Angus Show, May 28, Timonium



Allison Davis, Shelbyville, Tenn., won premier exhibitor. Pictured (from left) are Paul Hill, show chairman; Kelsey Theis, Miss American Angus; and Allison Davis, recipient.



Seldom Rest Farms, Niles, Mich., won premier breeder and had the show dedicated to them. Pictured (from left) are Paul Hill; and Scott Foster, Bruce Foster and Andrew Foster, recipients.

Tennessee Angus Ass'n Junior Preview Show, June 3, Lebanon



Winning top honors in their division of showmanship (from left) are Alli Perry, Fayetteville, senior champion; Lena Sims, McEwen, reserve senior champion; Remi Gardner, Paris, intermediate A champion; Richard Crowell, Waverly, reserve intermediate A champion; Grant Kuhn, Manchester, intermediate B champion; Lona Sims, McEwen, reserve intermediate B champion; and Gavin Kuhn, Manchester, junior champion.

Alabama Angus Ass'n Junior Preview Show and Field Day, June 2-3, Opelika



Winning senior showmanship (from left) are Reid McGuire, judge; Cheyenne Walker, Toney, champion; and Makayla Walker, Toney, reserve champion; and Wheeler Allen, Lexington, third.



Winning intermediate showmanship (from left) are Reid McGuire, judge; Amelia Thrower, Arab, champion; Ellis Evans, Hope Hull, reserve champion; Amelia Ivey, Webb, third; Sara Faust, Oneonta, fourth; and Laura Franklin, Blountsville, fifth.



Selected to serve as voting delegates for this year's National Junior Angus Show (from left) are Cheyenne Walker, delegate; Makayla Walker, delegate; and Wheeler Allen, alternate.



Winning top honors in junior showmanship (from left) are Reid McGuire; Claire Smith, Jemison, champion; Collins Cofield, Wadley, reserve champion; Camden Upchurch, Lineville, third; Shep Evans, Hope Hull, fourth; and John Dyess, Geneva, fifth.



Participating in peewee showmanship (from left) are Reid McGuire; Corbitt Dyess, Geneva; Bryson Upchurch, Lineville; Whitley Cofield, Wadley; and Alexandria Wood, Holly Pond.



Receiving the Richard Dyar scholarship (from left) are Makayla Walker, recipient; Richard Dyar, presenting; and Wheeler Allen, recipient.



Elected to serve on the Alabama Junior Angus Ass'n board of directors (front row from left) are Claire Smith, director; Collins Cofield, director; Holly Dubose, Troy, director; Ellis Evans, director; Shep Evans, director; Laura Franklin, director; Makayla Walker, director; Cheyenne Walker (back row from left), president; Amelia Thrower, vice president; Kynleigh Wood, Holly Pond, treasurer; and Wheeler Allen, reporter.



Cheyenne Walker (left), and Kynleigh Wood (center), were crowned Miss Alabama Angus. Also pictured is Meghan Rutherford, Alabama Angus Women's Auxiliary treasurer, presenting.



Receiving Alabama Angus Women's Auxiliary scholarships (from left) are Makayla Walker, recipient; Meghan Rutherford, presenting; and Wheeler Allen, recipient.

Nebraska State Junior Angus Show, June 4, Broken Bow

Photos by B Lynne Photography, courtesy of American Angus Association.



Daniel Young, Scottsbluff, Neb., won premier exhibitor.



Winning top honors in their showmanship divisions (from left) are Dustin Frank, judge; Kyra Meyer, Blue Hill, senior champion; Tucker Stagemeyer, Page, reserve senior champion; Kasey Meyer, Blue Hill, intermediate champion; Addison Crouse, Belgrade, reserve intermediate champion; Daniel Young, junior champion; and Mckinley Stoller, Palisade, reserve junior champion. **AJ**