

The Best and the Brightest

The American Angus Auxiliary awards 10 shining National Junior Angus Association members with scholarships.

by Megan Silveira, assistant editor

Anyone familiar with the youth of the Angus breed knows the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) creates exemplary individuals. Young members of the Business Breed often possess levels of drive, passion, dedication and knowledge that rival seasoned breeders.

For more than 50 years, the American Angus Auxiliary has awarded the best and brightest of

these young Angus cattlemen and women with thousands of dollars in scholarships. Five female and five male recipients are chosen and ranked, with the scholarship pool divided amongst them based on their individual placings.

The NJAA members must be nominated by their state or regional association the spring preceding their freshman year of college. Winners

were announced during the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

Five cattlemen are also selected by the Auxiliary during this application process to then be entered into the race for Miss American Angus. The new Angus royalty will be crowned at the annual Angus Convention in November.



Mattie Harward

Hometown: Richfield, N.C.
Parents: Marcus and Patty Harward
High School: Harward Academy & Gray Stone Day School
College: North Carolina State University
NJAA Tenure: 11 years

Mattie Harward has a rich history in the cattle industry. This sixth-generation cattle producer has put in a multitude of hours around her herd of 80 Angus cattle, performing tasks ranging from tagging newborn calves to creating the perfect nutrition plan for her seedstock animals.

"Learning how to balance these responsibilities has had a huge impact on my life," the 19-year-old says. "I have

learned the importance of time management and organization in order to succeed at the farm, at school and in other activities. By having obstacles thrown at me on the farm, I

have learned the art of flexibility and the significance of determination in working to overcome tough times in order to succeed."

Harward says she is proud to be a part of a breed that has built a brand recognized and respected by consumers and producers on a global scale. Many of her goals as a young cattlemen center around promoting the Angus breed even further and helping others discover the same passion she holds for the

cattle industry. By sharing the strides the American Angus Association is progressively making in regards to genetic technology, Harward says she can help other producers find success.

Harward attributes her love for the livestock and people in the cattle industry as well as her leadership potential to the time she has spent in the NJAA.

She explains, "Through the NJAA I learned what interested me the most and created my goals, my ambitions and desire for what I hope to do for the future."

The Auxiliary awards Harward \$2,000 and the chance to pursue her goal of educating others with the opportunity to compete for the title of Miss American Angus.



Ellie Kidwell

Hometown: Walhonding, Ohio
Parents: Kelly and Corey Kidwell
High School: Tri-Valley High School
College: Kansas State University
NJAA Tenure: 9 years

"I have learned about hard work, dedication, teamwork and many other valuable skills over the years," says Ellie Kidwell. "The NJAA has inspired me to become a leader, helping me reach my full potential."

As an active member of the NJAA, Kidwell boasts an impressive list of Angus-related activities. From exhibiting her livestock in various shows across the nation to attending educational events such as the

Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference, this 17-year-old is devoted to personal growth — in and out of the cattle industry.

Kidwell owns a herd of 21 registered Angus cattle, which she has been growing since 2010. Her responsibilities include employing animal husbandry practices, monitoring heat cycles, breeding females with the use of artificial insemination (AI) and administering vaccinations. Working alongside her parents and sister to complete these tasks has taught her the importance of commitment and communication, she says.

"Working with my Angus cattle is something I have fallen in love with. My Angus herd has taught me some of the things that make me who I am, and I am extremely thankful for those experiences," Kidwell says.

Her Angus dreams revolve around inspiring the youth of the Business Breed. Kidwell says she hopes to one day don the famous red coat of Miss American Angus. One of her biggest goals is to serve as a role model to other young women involved in the Angus industry, she adds.

The Auxiliary presented Kidwell with \$1,900 and the opportunity to fulfill her dreams in competing for the title of Miss American Angus.



Kyra Meyer

Hometown: Blue Hill, Neb.
Parents: Brandon and Kami Meyer
High School: Blue Hill High School
College: Cloud County Community College
NJAA Tenure: 8 years

"Our generation is the next voice of the Angus breed, and it is up to us to continue moving this breed forward," says Kyra Meyer. "I feel my generation knows less and less about the beef industry, and I believe being a voice for our Association during today's times and using my voice to speak with my generation is one of the best ways to lead."

The 18-year-old not only possesses a passion for the Angus breed but also

expresses a keen desire to share that passion with the world. Through her involvement with the NJAA and her service to the Nebraska Junior Angus

Association, Meyer says she has developed communication skills and grown in her ability to lead others.

With her last few years as a member of the NJAA on the horizon, Meyer says she is more eager than ever before to involve herself in the Association on a national level.

In addition to the various leadership roles she fills, Meyer also dedicates her time to managing her herd of 20 head of Angus.

Between her herd's responsibilities and the added tasks of helping with her family's cattle, Meyer has an impressive list of tasks she completes to ensure the care of their livestock. She says being involved in the livestock industry has done more than just provide a checklist of chores, however.

"All these responsibilities have taught me the value of hard work, which I have been able to carry over into sports, school and my show career," she explains. "All these skills have helped me be successful on and off the farm and will continue to be beneficial in my future."

The Auxiliary presented Meyer with \$1,800.



Lauren Gilbert

Hometown: Oldfield, Mo.

Parents: Josh and LeAnna Gilbert

High School: Chadwick R-1 School

College: University of Missouri

NJAA Tenure: 6 years

"Angus has become the most profound cattle breed organization in the world because of the brilliant leaders who have cultivated its path to success," says Lauren Gilbert. During her journey as a member of the NJAA and the Missouri Junior Angus Association, Gilbert has become one of those leaders.

From honing her leadership skills through NJAA-led events to serving as an officer for

community and high school.

Gilbert's ability to lead others stems from managing her herd of 10 head. Being a certified AI technician, Gilbert says she not only calls the shots during breeding season but also has the chance to gain hands-on experience with various reproductive technologies.

Another of her responsibilities is marketing her cattle. Through photography and

personally designed advertisements, Gilbert says she showcases her cattle at trade shows and exhibits them at the national level.

"The extensive responsibilities that come with raising cattle have shaped me into the leader and cattlegirl I am today," she adds.

Gilbert says she has dreams of inspiring personal growth in other NJAA members by one day serving as Miss American Angus. For now, she says she plans to fulfill her role of being a responsible Angus breeder by consistently submitting the genomic and phenotypic data she collects.

The Auxiliary is granting Gilbert an opportunity to achieve her dream by competing for the title of Miss American Angus as well as awarding her with \$1,700.



Emma Grace Nowotny

Hometown: New Braunfels, Texas

Parents: Darryl and Meredith Nowotny

High School: New Braunfels High School

College: Oklahoma State University

NJAA Tenure: 10 years

Emma Grace Nowotny has been giving back the Business Breed since she first joined the NJAA.

Nowotny says she is consistently looking for new ways to encourage young Angus breeders to discover their role within the Association. Now in her fifth year of serving on the Texas Junior Angus Association board, Nowotny says she has grown her connections

experience that will always be a true passion of mine. As I found my place in the Angus breed, I only hope to help and inspire others to do the same."

Next on the 17-year-old's leadership agenda? Running for the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB). Nowotny says this opportunity would allow her to give back to the Angus breed and its junior members.

within the industry and deepened her love for junior members.

"There's a deeper meaning behind the title," she explains. "Making a change in someone's life is a heartwarming

When she's not serving in her various leadership roles, Nowotny can be found working with her herd of 60 Angus cattle. To prepare for shows across the nation, Nowotny says she prides herself in maintaining a healthy haircoat on her animals and practicing her own showmanship skills.

"I have a passion for cattle," she says. "The late nights I spent at the barn or in the pasture are because I have the passion to be successful with my Angus cattle. My success doesn't always earn me the banner, but there's more to this industry than just winning."

The Auxiliary presented Nowotny with \$1,600 and the chance to compete for the title of Miss American Angus.



Cutter Pohlman

Hometown: Hereford, Texas

Parents: Moriah and Scott Pohlman

High School: Pohlman Home School

College: Texas Tech University

NJAA Tenure: 15 years

"Tradition and Angus are two words that go hand in hand at my house," says Cutter Pohlman, sixth-generation rancher and fourth-generation Angus

breeder. "These long-standing traditions of ranching and American Angus Association participation have opened my eyes to many new opportunities."

Pohlman says he has learned to keep the practices of past generations near to



his heart while consistently progressing forward to fulfill the vision he has for himself and his Angus herd. Fondly referring to this plan as a “road map” for involvement, this 18-year-old has lofty goals for both his family’s operation in Texas and himself as a budding cattleman.

From immersing himself in the culture of the NJAA to attending Texas Tech University, Pohlman’s plan is thorough, detailed and ambitious — just like its creator.

Pohlman credits his passion and

positivity to having grown up in the cattle industry. He says the events planned through the NJAA and tools provided by the Association have allowed him to successfully manage his own 32 head of Angus cattle, understand the importance of sharing his Angus story and effectively advocate for his fellow agriculturists.

His time in the Business Breed has inspired Pohlman to help others gain a voice in the cattle industry. He has hopes of sporting a green coat as a member of the

NJAB and ran for a position this summer.

“I have admired those that have served our great breed and built the legacy that has established our breed as the Business Breed,” Pohlman explains. “This Angus leadership position would allow me to share my passion for the breed with the membership.”

The Auxiliary presented Pohlman with \$2,000.



Eric Schafer

Hometown: Owaneco, Ill.
Parents: Aaron and Sue Schafer
High School: Taylorville High School
College: Butler Community College
NJAA Tenure: 10 years

Schafer views every opportunity to volunteer his time as a chance to help promote the Angus breed. The 18-year-old says with each activity he enlists his service to, he hopes to get one step closer to his goal

of becoming a cattleman who not only positively represents the Angus breed, but also produces high-quality seedstock cattle that are competitive across the nation.

For the past 10 years, Eric Schafer says his enthusiasm for the Angus breed has been consistently growing. The Illinois native has a hand in nearly every corner of the cattle industry. Selling cattle at Association sales, exhibiting his livestock in the show ring, filling leadership roles at the state and national level — Schafer certainly exhibits a desire to give back to the Business Breed.

“I have a true passion for the beef cattle industry, and I have always been driven to be the best stockman I can be,” Schafer explains. “I hope to eventually build a brand that can be synonymous with not only quality stock but quality people, and I know

that the responsibilities I have taken on in my own beef herd have given me the skill to do just that.” Working every day on his family’s farm has shown Schafer the value of hard work, determination and perseverance. His duties include dictating breeding decisions, managing the care of donor cows on embryo transfer (ET) cycles, producing advertisements for production sales, interacting with customers and more.

Schafer says the Association has been on the forefront of innovation for decades and believes he can help propel the breed even farther forward. He looks forward to future opportunities to serve the breed and its members.

Schafer is awarded \$1,900 by the Auxiliary.

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Colby Perry

Hometown: Prather, Calif.
Parents: Randy and Susan Perry
High School: Sierra High School
College: Oklahoma State University
NJAA Tenure: 17 years

always comes first,” says Colby Perry. With the responsibility of managing his herd of 24 Angus cattle, Perry is no stranger to the trials and triumphs of being involved in the Business Breed.

From feeding and Aling cattle to building pipe pens and

turnouts, this 18-year-old credits growing up in the cattle industry with shaping him into the well-rounded individual he is today.

“The responsibility of owning Angus cattle has taught me the importance of hard work and dedication, and that my animals’ needs

“Through my agriculture upbringing, I have learned hard work, dedication, responsibility and the importance of giving back to my community and my family. The lessons I have learned through agriculture have helped me be successful in many different areas of my life,” Perry says.

The once quiet and shy cattleman says the NJAA brought him out of his shell at a young age. By participating in shows across the country, attending various

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leadership events hosted by the NJAA and serving as an officer within his junior state association, Perry says the Angus breed taught him the value of networking. The California native says he now boasts an impressive list of Angus enthusiasts he is

proud to call his friends.

Time spent in the show ring created a passion for livestock and the Angus breed, and Perry says this love has created a desire within him to give back to the Association and the entire agriculture industry.

Beyond hoping to one day sport the green coat of the NJAB members, Perry also says he plans on attending law school to learn to serve as a voice for American farmers and ranchers.

The Auxiliary awarded Perry with \$1,800.



Gordon Clark

Hometown: Gretna, Va.
Parents: Gretchen and Timothy Clark
High School: Gretna High School
College: Kansas State University
NJAA Tenure: 9 years

minute spent around the livestock.

"I have learned that nothing comes easily, and to succeed one has to work very hard," Clark says. "Daily activities spent in the barn create

technologies and the creation of educational events and opportunities, Clark says he is grateful to be part of an Association so dedicated to its members.

Clark says he is especially grateful for each moment spent in the NJAA. He believes he would not be the same individual if he had not grown up Angus. While each year in the Business Breed has only strengthened his love for the livestock, Clark says his fondness for agriculture is not the only thing that has grown.

"As my passion for this awesome breed has grown throughout my childhood, so have my abilities as a leader," he adds.

Clark is presented with \$1,700 from the Auxiliary.

Come early morning or late at night, more often than not Gordon Clark can be found in the show barn. His duties as herd manager include rinsing, feeding and working the hair of show calves along with handling the miscellaneous day-to-day tasks on his family's operation as the need arises.

The 18-year-old says managing his herd of 50 head is no easy feat, but he loves every

a solid base for success in the show ring as well as the real world. I am a better person, harder and smarter worker, and more prepared to take the next steps in life because of the lessons and endless hours of working and learning on the farm."

Clark says this idea of starting with a strong foundation can be seen in the entire Angus industry. Through the provision of new



Matthew Rosman

Hometown: Creston, Wash.
Parents: Jeff and Katie Rosman
High School: Wilbur-Creston High School
College: Oklahoma State University
NJAA Tenure: 10 years

from his experiences as an NJAA member. In and out of the show ring, Rosman says the time he has spent around the livestock and producers of the Business Breed

understand and promote the breed that I choose to show."

Between the six registered Angus cattle Rosman owns and his family's herd, the fourth-generation rancher says there is hardly a moment where he is not either in the barn or thinking of what needs to be done next. Rosman describes showing cattle as his "sport," and says he has a true passion for both working and showing cattle.

In the upcoming years Rosman says he plans to continue promoting the Angus industry. He hopes to convince others to join the Angus family, and dreams of an opportunity to serve on the NJAB.

Rosman receives \$1,600 from the Auxiliary.

"Looking back over the past decade as an Angus junior, I appreciate my transition from that young, inexperienced junior, eager to learn from the older generation, into the senior who is willing to step up and help those whowere just like me," says Matthew Rosman.

The Washington native understands what it takes be a good leader, advocate for the agriculture industry and Angus breeder. The 18-year-old says this understanding came

has undoubtedly had a positive influence on his life.

Rosman says his family consistently works to involve themselves in the Washington State Angus Association and Washington Junior Angus Association, so he is no stranger to the joys of volunteering his time to the Angus breed.

He says, "Being involved in the Association from a young age, it is easy for me to

