

Leading with Positivity

Bryce Fitzgerald adds to his accolades being selected as Outstanding Leader.

by Katy Holdener, American Angus Association

Whether he's getting a calf ready to go in the ring or meeting a first-year showman at an Angus Mentoring Program (AMP) event, Bryce Fitzgerald exudes a positive outlook and attitude. Fitzgerald has won awards like Herdsman of the Year and earned his Bronze and Silver honors. He added the Outstanding Leadership Award to his repertoire at the 2020 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

The Outstanding Leadership Award is given to a National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) member who sets a positive example for others. The NJAA recognizes Bryce Fitzgerald of West Grove, Pa., as the 2020 recipient of the Jim Baldrige Outstanding Leadership Award. Fitzgerald received the award for his leadership activities, acts of service and overall involvement in the NJAA. Fitzgerald was recognized July 26 during the virtual closing ceremonies of the 2020 NJAS in Tulsa, Okla.

In addition to the trophy award, Fitzgerald received a \$2,500 scholarship. The award was named the Jim Baldrige Outstanding Leadership Award in memory of

Jim's lifetime of service to the Angus breed. The Baldrige family has been recognized as lifetime contributors to the Angus breed, and they consistently give back to the NJAA.



Bryce Fitzgerald

"This award speaks volumes to me," Fitzgerald says. "The Baldrige family has built a legacy of serving the Angus breed, and I am truly humbled by this

honor. I hope to keep up the tradition of giving back to younger members and helping them become as involved as I am."

Fitzgerald's roots in the Angus breed trace back several generations. His grandfather and father are both involved in the Angus industry, and he continues to pursue the same passion for the Business Breed.

"I've been involved in the Angus breed my whole life," Fitzgerald says. "It's in my DNA, and I'm proud of what my family has built in this industry. This award only amplifies my passion for the Angus business."

Fitzgerald is an incoming senior at Oklahoma State University majoring in agribusiness and minoring in finance. As an active member of the FarmHouse fraternity, several university clubs and the NJAA, he exudes a service mentality in all

areas. As a freshman in college, Fitzgerald tallied 155 hours of community service — all while balancing a full class schedule. He has volunteered his time with Habitat for Humanity and Into the Streets, among other organizations. Even while busy at school, he has remained active in his family's cattle business and helping juniors at livestock shows and events throughout the country.

"One of my favorite activities to partake in is the AMP," he says. "I've been involved for many years. By participating, I get to know kids outside my age group, and I'm able to meet and assist younger members in becoming more involved."

The 2020 NJAS marked 12 straight years of attendance for Fitzgerald. He has fond memories of his first year being involved and how much he looked up to the older members who inspired him.

"I remember my first NJAS in Des Moines, Iowa, like it was yesterday," he says. "Whenever you get a chance to be involved, besides just showing cattle, don't be afraid to jump in. My dad always told us 'learn by doing,' and I hope to continue to do that as I grow as a leader." 