

## Green Guidance

*The six retiring National Junior Angus Board members have words of wisdom for juniors.*

*by Megan Silveira, assistant editor*

### MEGAN PELAN



“My advice to juniors is to stay involved, be present, be open to try new things and always go the extra mile,”

says Megan Pelan. As young individuals working to find their place in the world, Pelan knows that at times, finding the courage to put themselves out there seems like an impossible task for National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members.

It is during those moments of trial, however, Pelan firmly believes greatness can be revealed. By choosing to attend a new event or giving their all in a competition for the first time, Pelan says juniors can discover a new passion.

From the National Junior Angus Show's (NJAS) contests to events like the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference,



NJAA members are presented with countless chances to find their place in the Angus industry. Pelan says it's up to those members to learn to seize these opportunities placed in front of them.

“It's never too late to join, to attend a conference, try a new contest for the first time,” Pelan explains. “You're never too old, and it's never too late during your junior career.”

### NICHOLAS POHLMAN



Even before his two years in the green coat, Nicholas Pohlman says finding meaningful, lasting

relationships within the cattle industry has been one of his passions. He knows many NJAA members treasure their Angus family, but he also knows these connections are more than just friendships.

At every NJAA event, there is chance to meet someone with a different background, different beliefs, different production methods. With each of these meetings, Pohlman says there's also a chance to learn.

“The biggest ticket item I would suggest to any junior is to meet



new people and make new friendships,” Pohlman says. “Build a base to connect with people.”

The task might sound daunting, but Pohlman says the Angus breed isn't lacking when it comes to friendly faces. To make those connections, all he says NJAA members have to do is “just get involved.”

Any type of involvement in the cattle industry is an opportunity to build those connections Pohlman places so much value on.

“Get involved locally, at a state level and broadly,” he encourages. “Just connect with people.”

### DANIEL ROHRBAUGH



In NJAB member Daniel Rohrbaugh's opinion, advice does not have to be lengthy to be

helpful. In fact, his favorite wisdom to share to juniors consists of just two words — never quit.

“If you ever feel like you are satisfied with your life and that you feel like you can do no more, there is always something more to do,” he explains.

While Rohrbaugh encourages NJAA members to allow themselves a moment’s rest after accomplishing a goal, he says the key to success is to find the next goal to reach for.

To help keep themselves moving on the never-ending road to personal growth, Rohrbaugh encourages juniors to get involved early.

Rohrbaugh is confident the youth of the Angus breed are capable of reaching the greatest heights, they just need to find new ways to push themselves. As a green coat, he has the unique opportunity of helping push juniors toward experiences placed in front of them.

“I am so happy now that I look back on my junior career that I did get involved early within some of those leadership positions within my state association,” he says. “We always say think outside the box. Why don’t we put ourselves outside the box and try something new by reaching out to new people?”



## REAGAN SKOW



No matter the event, there is consistently one individual — in and out of the green coat — who loves to

applaud the accomplishments and successes of her peers. Reagan Skow finds that cheering on others has just as much benefit for those individuals as it does for herself.

When individuals work hard, it is natural for others to notice. Skow says it is important to both be the one putting in the hours at home and the one clapping when others claim the ultimate prize.

As a member of the NJAB, encouragement is something Skow says she readily offers all young Angus cattlemen and women. She believes it is vital for those members to provide the same support to their fellow producers.

Not everyone can come home from cattle shows and other competitive events as winners, and Skow reminds NJAA members to take pride in both their wins and their losses. If they have spent time preparing for the event at hand, Skow says they should label themselves a success no matter their final placing.

“Throughout your future endeavors, be sure to work diligently and cheer for those who cheer for you,” she says.



## KELSEY VEJRASKA



For Kelsey Vejraska, every moment in life is an opportunity to grow as an individual.

Whether she’s sporting her green coat or moving forward as an Angus producer, Vejraska says she has learned to push herself consistently.

She believes the NJAA does a great job of preparing its budding cattlemen and women for their futures. She encourages juniors to take every chance they are presented to grow, whether they plan on



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staying in the cattle industry long-term or not.

“The agriculture and cattle industries are known for preparing junior members as young adults for the real world,” she explains. “Hard work, dedication, time management — we’ve got it all.”

Vejraska encourages juniors to push themselves, even when they are nervous of the outcome, because without pushing themselves, they will not be able to take full advantage of the lessons and skills the NJAA is trying to teach them.

“Step outside of your comfort zone,” she says. “There’s no comfort in the growth zone, and there’s no growth in the comfort zone.”

## JUSTIN WOOD



After spending half of his time in the green coat feeling like there was not much he could do thanks to a pandemic that

changed schedules and created country-wide restrictions, Justin Wood says



he created a goal for himself in 2021. This is a goal he will carry on even as his term on the NJAB comes to a close.

“I want to inspire change — not be the change,” he says. “You can’t change things on your own, but you can be the person people look to that inspires change. You can do so much more inspiring change into people, like giving them the opportunity to build on what you’ve done and making it their own.”

Wood reminds NJAA members to see the bigger picture in all that they do, whether they have a show stick in hand or not.

“If you inspire change in one person, they might go out and inspire hundreds of other people,” he explains. “It’s not just what you can do. It’s what you can inspire other people to do.” **AJ**

