

GUARDIANS OF THE PLAINS
2023 NJAS - GRAND ISLAND, NE

HENDERSON NAMED 2023 ADVISOR OF THE YEAR

Wisconsin advisor honored for excellent leadership and support of Angus junior leaders.

by Katelyn Engel, Angus Communications intern

Behind every successful junior member is a hardworking and passionate youth advisor. Becky Henderson has been that mentor for youth of the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association (WJAA) for more than 10 years. Her commitment to serving Angus juniors earned her the Advisor of the Year honor July 7 at the 2023 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Grand Island, Neb.

“It is so rewarding to see all the young people that went through the WJAA program grow up to become wonderful and responsible adults who are proud supporters of the WJAA and the Angus breed,” Henderson says.

As a parent who raised her kids to be active in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), Henderson says she understands the value and benefits of involvement in the program.

“When my oldest son started showing, I stepped up and volunteered to be a Wisconsin Junior Angus Association Advisor,” Henderson says.

As a state advisor, she uses firsthand experience to create a positive and enlightening environment to encourage members.

“She is fun, reliable and, most importantly, always wants what is best for the juniors,” says Mia Bayer, fellow WJAA advisor.

Behind the scenes, Henderson

works diligently as a liaison between the state and national associations. She handles the necessary paperwork to ensure juniors are able to actively participate in all the contests offered at the NJAS.

She has also planned and chaperoned mini-LEAD weekends, events created to emulate the NJAA’s Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences for her state’s youth. The retreats allow WJAA members to attend educational tours and focus on team building and leadership development.

Currently, Henderson is preparing for the 2024 NJAS, which will be hosted by Wisconsin at the Alliant Energy Center in Madison. A lot of work goes into planning the NJAS, from organizing the show to contests and clinics. Serving as a host state means juniors in the state association can increase their involvement by helping with the preparation and execution of the event.

“The WJAA provides opportunities for their juniors without hesitation, and that is a testament to the leadership they have with Becky Henderson,” says Caitlyn Brandt, American Angus Association director of events and junior activities.

“Becky plays a significant role in the

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Becky Henderson (center) was recognized as the Advisor of the Year. Also pictured are Jaclyn Boester (left), Angus Foundation executive director, and Marcie Harward, NJAA Foundation director.

success of the NJAA and the WJAA, and these programs are lucky to have her.”

The Advisor of the Year award was started in 1980 to recognize the incredible work of state advisors for their respective junior Angus associations and their contributions to supporting Angus youth.

All NJAA state advisors are eligible for the award. Nominations are due in March of each year. For more information on how to nominate an advisor, visit <http://legacy.angus.org/njaa/Awards/advisorNJAA.aspx>. 