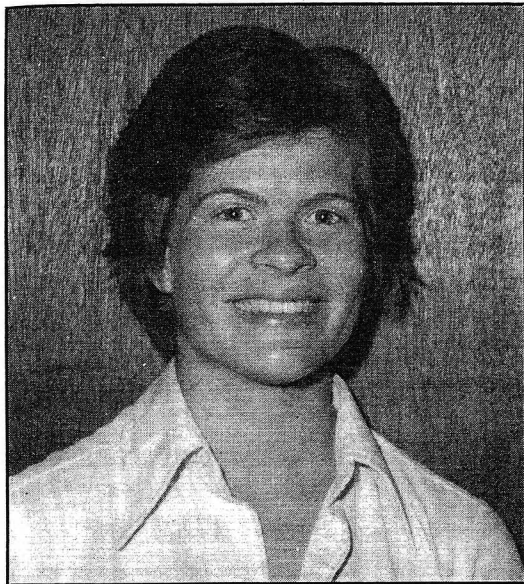


The Gold Award

by Ann Gooding

Jennifer Platts Wins the Gold— Junior Association's Most Prestigious Award— Greg Kimsey, Danny Knop, Bruce Kroeker, Dale Rains and Jodie Wallace Also Named in Gold Recognition Program.



Jennifer Platts, Culpeper, Va.

That's what the judges had to say about selecting the first gold award winners in the American Angus Assn.'s National Junior Recognition Program. Over a dozen young people applied. All are achievers, all are active participants in numerous activities. They are the cream of the crop whose qualifications bear testimony to the strength and validity of the recognition program.

An article in the October 1979 ANGUS JOURNAL announced the updating of the National Junior Recognition Program. Since then a number of youngsters, all members of the American Angus Assn. and under the age of 21, have accumulated the 1,000 points necessary for the first of the program's three levels, the bronze award; 97 have taken the extra step to 1,500 points and the silver level.

(Points can be accumulated in four general categories which include association activities on national, state and local levels; national, state and local participation in showmanship and heifer competition; involvement in performance programs; and activities in producing and merchandising Angus. Another category—4-H and FFA projects, A.I., physical facility improvements and forage improvement programs—does not involve points but does build toward the gold level.)

A Special Purpose

The program serves a very special purpose. Director of Junior Activities Jerry Lipsey puts it this way: "Young people respond to recognition for their efforts more than any other thing. I can't think of any better way to encourage young people and to guarantee the future of Angus than to recognize them for supreme effort."

The gold award then, is the program's highest honor. This summer, for the first time, recipients of that award were named.

As decreed by the National Junior Angus Assn. board of directors, a panel of three (this year's judges were Gilman Stewart,

John Kiesewetter and John Crouch) reviewed all applications.

The judges were instructed to choose a winner and they did. In fact they chose six. However, they agreed unanimously that the most outstanding junior is Jennifer Platts, Culpeper, Va. The five other gold award winners are—Jodie Wallace, Ripley, W.Va.; Dale Rains, Mercer, Pa.; Greg Kimsey, Elk City, Kan.; Danny Knop, Ida Grove, Iowa; and Bruce Kroeker, Hutchinson, Kan.

Applications and Recommendations

What did these young people have that made them so special? Well, first each had achieved the prerequisite silver award. Then each, of course, had exceptional recommendations and submitted impressive applications brimming with activities and honors already earned. Although they listed a variety of interests and achievements, they do have some activities in common. All, for example, had been active 4-H members. They all had shown cattle, judged cattle and each now owns cattle. All but one had been a delegate to the National Showmanship Contest. Several had been recognized by the American Angus Auxiliary with either scholarships or certificates of achievement. Three served or are serving on the National Junior Angus Assn. board. And none restricted their activities to agriculture; each listed outside interests like music or sports or speech.

Their applications made one thing clear. They are leaders. They are the ones who get things done, the ones who make a difference. They are outstanding young people. They deserve special recognition.

Jennifer Platts, Culpeper, Va.

Jennifer Platts, by unanimous decision, topped the field of candidates for the first National Junior Recognition gold award. She's the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Platts and she will graduate next spring from Virginia Polytechnic Institute (VPI) in animal science with options in business, marketing, art and design.

—Gilman Stewart, Indianapolis, past president of the American Angus Assn.: "The material sent in by participants was outstanding and it was difficult to pick out one that would stand above the rest. I think our choice, though, will surely be a good representative for the junior Angus association and the Angus breed."

—John Crouch, St. Joseph, Mo., American Angus Assn. Director of Performance Programs: "All candidates were very outstanding in their accomplishments. To pick one was a difficult task."

—John Kiesewetter, Farmington, Ill., National Junior Angus Assn. board chairman: "With such excellent candidates, deciding on the winners was a challenge. The top contenders, though, seemed most actively involved and their experiences were more varied."

The top gold award winner is no stranger to national Angus-related activities and honors; she has been a delegate to the national showmanship contest and in 1978 was fourth in the American Angus Auxiliary scholarship contest.

Jennifer was raised on her family's Turkle Track Farm near Culpeper. She has contributed her share of work there, not only with livestock but in promotion and advertising—something her parents say has increased sales significantly.

She's been active in Block and Bridle Club and is a member of VPI's first competitive (and Southeast Regional Contest winner) Quadrathlon team, an activity, according to one school official, that requires both academic and practical knowledge and a great deal of mental agility.

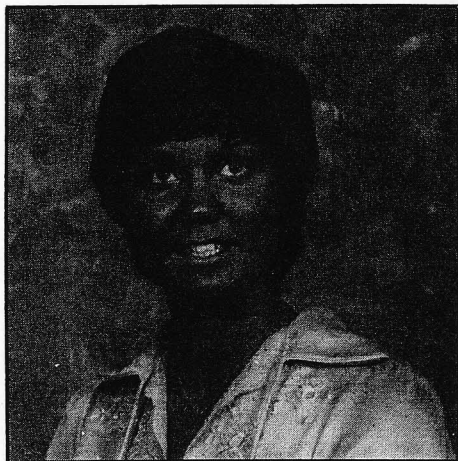
As a summer assistant to Dr. Robert Kelly, Food Science and Technology, Jennifer has had first-hand experience in meat evaluation and with carcass data. She also has worked under the direction of Dr. A.L. Eller Jr. with Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Assn. data and records.

Jennifer is headed for a career in agricultural industry, probably in the communications field. Her ambitions don't stop there though—she hopes someday to have her own farm.

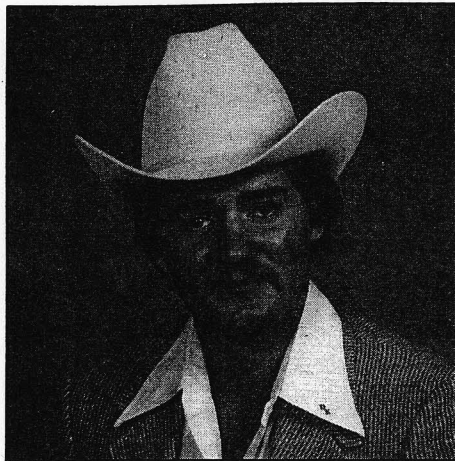
Jodie Wallace, Ripley, W.Va.

Jodie Wallace is a senior in industrial engineering at West Virginia University, Morgantown, and like other gold award winners, there aren't many activities available to young people in which she hasn't participated.

She's been president of her state junior Angus association and is a member of the National Junior association's board of directors. Her long list of 4-H activities ranges from beef projects to county pet show judging to camp counselling. Jodie has participated in three Eastern Regionals and was a member of the 1978 Eastern Regional Junior Heifer Show committee.



Jodie Wallace, Ripley, W. Va.



Danny Knop, Ida Grove, Iowa



Greg Kimsey, Elk City, Kan.

Jodie is on the American Institute of Industrial Engineer's Regional Conference Committee. She spent a year as an International Rotary Exchange Student and was a nominee to the U.S. Naval Academy.

The daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Wallace Jr., Jodie has worked on her folks' farm and also has spent several summers working in a nearby Kaiser Aluminum plant. She's been a shift supervisor there—not only a responsible position but one traditionally held by men.

Dale Rains, Mercer, Pa.

National Junior Angus Assn. board member and first chairman of the group's Rules Committee, Dale Rains is a senior in animal production at Pennsylvania State University. He has worked in the beef barns there and is an active member of Block and Bridle Club. He has been a member of the livestock and meat judging teams and was 1980 champion beef showman and fitter.

Dale has considerable fitting experience to his credit having worked for (among others) Rally Farms, Summitcrest Farms, Gallagher's, Skarship Farm, Penn State, McKean Bros. and B&L Ranch. He spent a summer at B&L through the American Angus Assn. summer job program.

Since 1975 Dale has filled the offices of president and vice president and has been a director of his state's junior Angus association. He was chairman of the 1979 Eastern Regional Junior Heifer Show.

His Angus inventory adds up to 45 head; all of his younger stock, by the way, is by PS Power Play.

Dale is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Austin C. Rains.

Greg Kimsey, Elk City, Kan.

If recommendations are any indication, Greg Kimsey, son of Mr. & Mrs. David Kimsey, has to be one of Kansas State University's outstanding ag students. This highly-thought-of young man who has worked with herdsman Galen Fink at the school's purebred beef barn, is an animal science and industry major. He will graduate in 1982 and plans to return then to the family farm near Elk City, Kan., to work with his father and uncle. His responsibilities there will not be new because, as

school allowed, Greg has worked on the farm since he was a youngster.

Like other award winners, Greg has been president of his state junior Angus group; he also has been vice president and secretary. He has spent his share of time in 4-H and FFA activities and has been on judging teams for both groups. He is also a member of both the meat and livestock judging teams at K-State and is a 2-year recipient of that school's Willis-Griffing scholarship.

Danny Knop, Ida Grove, Iowa

Danny Knop, the only one of the six gold award winners who has finished school, has a career in agriculture well underway. He has been working since the spring of 1980 (when he graduated in animal science from Hawkeye Institute of Technology) with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Gene Knop, on Knop Angus Farm. He also has land, cattle and machinery of his own.

Among other responsibilities, Danny is in charge of the farm's extensive A.I. program and he is already making a difference—conception rates have improved 15% in the last two years.

His Angus-related activities include the presidency of his state's junior association. He received honorable mention in the 1980 National Showmanship Contest and capped off a long and successful junior show career by leading out the grand champion breeding heifer at Ak-Sar-Ben and at Kansas City's American Royal.

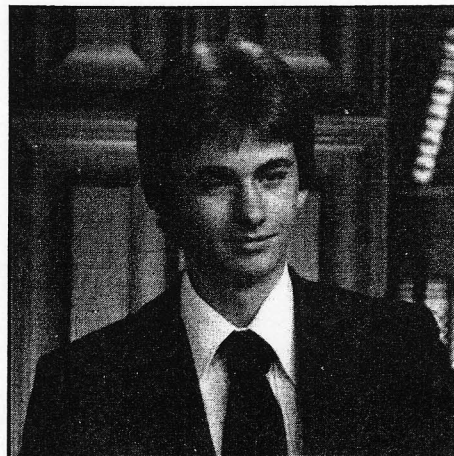
Through school internships, he has worked at Thomas Angus Ranch, Baker, Ore., and Glenkirk Farms, Maysville, Mo.

Danny was president of both his 4-H club and FFA chapter and was an FFA convention national convention delegate.

Bruce Kroeker, Hutchinson, Kan.

Bruce Kroeker, a member of the first board of directors of the National Junior Angus Assn., has been president of his state association, placed second in the 1978 National Showmanship Contest, co-chaired the 1980 National Junior Heifer Show and is a Kansas Angus scholarship recipient.

A junior in animal science at Kansas State University, Bruce is the son of Mr. & Mrs. Eldo Kroeker. He's a voting member of



Dale Rains, Mercer, Pa.



Bruce Kroeker, Hutchinson, Kan.

Kroeker Angus Inc., and as such is already involved in both decision making and farm management.

Before transferring to K-State, Bruce attended Hutchinson Junior College where he was awarded an agricultural leadership scholarship and was a judging team member. He is a member of K-State's Block and Bridle Club and was nominated to the International Achievement Society for Agriculture. Bruce has been president of his 4-H club and spent three years as county beef leader. An FFA member and active in high school sports, he also found time to participate in both concert and marching band.