

The NJAA T.E.A.M.

National Junior Angus Board works together to serve Angus youth

BY ANGIE STUMP

NJAABOARD RESPONSIBILITIES

Develop and carry out programs and events.

Promote the Angus breed.

Act as role models.

Attend and help organize various shows, field days and conferences.

Answer questions.

Twelve junior Angus members from across the United States join to lead the largest youth beef breed association in the world. Through teamwork, dedication and hard work the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board in their Augusta green jackets make a difference.

How do I get elected?

Every year at the National Junior Angus Show state delegates elect six new board members to serve a two-year term on the national board. Each state can send one candidate to

compete for the opened positions. One provision is that two people from the same state cannot serve at the same time.

During the National Junior Show state delegates and candidates attend a dinner in their honor. Following the dinner, candidates give a speech introducing themselves to the delegates. After the speeches, delegates have the opportunity to interview each of the candidates during a round-table discussion time.

NJAA Board responsibilities

Serving on the board a junior member has the opportunity and responsibility to attend all of the contests and activities. "While serving on the board you stop focusing on yourself," says Matt Perrier, 1995-96 chairman from Kansas.

The directors' main responsibility is the National Junior Show. They assist with check-in, coordinate contests, line up cattle, serve as ring stewards and act as announcers during the show. They also plan the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference and help Angus regional managers at other shows and activities.

LEAD is a seminar for junior Angus members to increase their skills in leadership and awareness of industry information.

Jenifer Hawkins, new board member from Michigan, says she wanted to be a director to have the opportunity to work with juniors around the country and be able to share ideas with them.

With the feedback and suggestions board members receive from junior members they are responsible for developing new

programs. During her campaign, Jenifer suggested an advertising contest, regional workshops and adding performance data to the show ring starting on the regional level.



NJAA Board chairman Matt Perrier visits with Andrew Schlatter of Australia and NJAA members about the future of the association and the breed.

Serving on the Board

"This board is an opportunity for both training and increased awareness of responsibility," James Fisher, director, junior activities, says.

During a board members' second year they serve as an officer or committee chairperson. "More emphasis is put on the titles than actually should be," says Chad Rotenberger, 1994-95 chairman from North Dakota. "They are just titles," he adds, "we actually work together as a team."

Angus cattle have always been a high priority for Perrier. "I wanted to help the association and use my leadership skills in another setting," Perrier explains on why he ran for the board.

While on the board, members participate in personal development workshops. The goal of the workshops is to learn how to utilize each team member's strengths in order to make the team the strongest possible.

"The workshops brought us together and gave us confidence in our talents," Chad says.

What does it take to be a NJAA Board member?

Chad says an outgoing personality, being open minded and the ability to gather your thoughts before making a verbal decision are important traits that you use as a director.

A board member should be confident and comfortable while speaking. "We are industry spokespersons of this breed," Chad says.

What do I get in return?

Board members dedicate time, money and service to the junior association. It is all worth it when one junior member comes up and says, "I want to be just like you someday."

Serving on the board prepares you for the future.

"I gained a lot of leadership abilities, communication skills and long lasting friendships," says Lisa Hawkins Moser, 1989-91 board member.

Lisa is successful in the livestock publications industry. She has established her own



The main responsibility of the National Junior Board is the National Junior Angus Show. At the show board members act as announcers, ring stewards and contest coordinators.

company, Custom Communications, and does freelance writing for several breed publications. She is also a field editor for the *Angus Journal*.

Networking is also an important part of serving on the board. "During their term as director they have the opportunity to meet Angus breeders and other industry leaders outside the Angus breed," Fisher says. "They can develop these relationships which may provide opportunities in the cattle industry as they continue their careers."

People respect and admire board members for their hard work. Serving on the NJAA Board is an honor and a responsibility.

"The directors are given respect because of the position they hold," Fisher adds. "They earn it by giving hours and hours of their time to the betterment of the association."

The NJAA Board is an important and unique set of individuals. They give of their time to make NJAA the best it can be.

"They can make a difference as members and individuals in junior programs," Fisher says, "because they have the willingness and drive to work hard."



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— James Fisher

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