

Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Challenge yourself

The summer before my senior year in high school, I was blessed with a wonderful opportunity. I auditioned, with a two-minute vocal solo and a one-minute dramatic reading, to attend the Missoula Children's Theater Performing Arts Camp in Montana.



Jessica Sawyer

I was one of approximately 500 aspiring performers across the country. Luckily, I was chosen as one of 60 participants to attend the two-week performance-based camp. The idea of

attending the event was thrilling, as I had enjoyed performing several vocal solos in the local choir and starring in various plays and musicals at school. I went to the camp with the assurance of being a talented performer.

I will never forget the night of auditions for vocal and dramatic solos. As I listened to the other campers' auditions, a great sense of intimidation overwhelmed me. I soon realized that my talent, which seemed to shine in local performances, was just average among the performers who surrounded me at the camp. In the end, I did not receive a solo position in the final performance.

However, the two-week experience was not at all disappointing. It was incredible! Every one of us was focused, practicing and

performing with 100% effort all day, everyday.

As the camp neared its end, I felt a great sense of pride in having experienced something larger than myself and greater than any other performance with which I had been involved. In the final practice, our director, Jim Carron, put into words the feeling I'd had throughout the camp.

"All of you were selected to be here for your talent and ability. You represent the best of the best. Yet, those of you who came to this camp for the first time were probably intimidated as you went through auditions. You quickly realized that you were a big fish in a small pond. Here, there was a higher level of excellence than at your local performances. The amount of talent and ability required to excel in your local programs was not going to be enough for you to excel as you are surrounded by the top performers in the country.

"But, as the camp progressed, I watched you force yourselves to improve and perform to the level needed to excel among this quality of talent. By taking the challenge to take the opportunities beyond your local programs, you have raised the expectations of yourself and your standard of excellence. Thus, you will return home better performers and better able to prepare yourself to compete with a level of talent

higher than before. Congratulate yourselves for stepping up to the challenge."

As I thought about the experience, I realized we do not improve our talent and abilities by remaining big fish in small ponds. We grow by challenging ourselves to raise our expectations above the level where we currently excel.

With this in mind, I would like to applaud the participants in the regional and national programs and competitions offered by the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). You are taking advantage of the opportunity to grow and compete with the beef industry's brightest stars. I challenge junior members to work to excel at this level because, as you do, you will raise your expectations and improve your talent and abilities.

— Jessica Sawyer,
Bassett, Neb.

Pennsylvania auxiliary awards scholarships

One of the major functions of the Pennsylvania Angus Auxiliary is to support junior Angus members. This year, \$1,400 in scholarships has been awarded. The auxiliary wishes to thank everyone who supported the auction, which made the scholarships possible.

The first-place female scholarship of \$500 was awarded to **Jamie Hower**, Bethlehem. Jamie has been active in the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association for seven years. She has served as president, director and chairwoman for the junior association's semen auction for three years. She also participated in the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference in 2001. Jamie has been active showing Angus in both 4-H and open shows from the local to the state level. She is enrolled in the veterinary technician program at Northampton Community College.

A second-place, \$250 scholarship was awarded to **Jessica Schmidt**, Drumore. Jessica served as the Pennsylvania Angus princess in 1997 and the Pennsylvania Angus queen in 2000. She also has been active in the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association for seven years. She is active in

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▶ NEXT GENERATION

4-H and the FFA, and she has shown her Angus from the local to the national level. Jessica received the Bronze and Silver awards from the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) in 2000. She is pursuing an agricultural business and animal production degree at Pennsylvania State University (Penn State).

Jamie Campbell, Pennsylvania Furnace, is the third-place female scholarship recipient. She received \$150. She has been active in the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association for three years. Jamie has been active in the 4-H program for 10 years and has served as treasurer and historian for her local beef club. Jamie also can be found showing her Angus from the local to the national level. As a business major at Penn State, Jamie looks forward to working in the marketing area of the Angus industry.

Bart Gill, Newport, is the first-place male scholarship recipient. He received \$500. Bart has been involved in the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association for four years and has shown his cattle from the local to the state level. He has been involved in the FFA for seven years, serving as a 1999-2000 state

officer. He has received the Keystone FFA Degree. Bart is majoring in agricultural education at Penn State.

Texas junior members excel in Junior Fed Beef Challenge

More than 60 of the beef industry's future leaders gathered in Canyon, Texas, recently to test their knowledge about cattle feeding and to earn the rewards of hard work as they competed in the Junior Fed Beef Challenge.

The event, sponsored by the Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA), allows 4-H or FFA members to gain practical experience in commercial cattle feeding. Competitors feed a pen of three steers, then compete in industry knowledge and cattle performance.

Several junior Angus members claimed top honors during the competition. **Joanna Olson**, Hereford, finished third in both the written exam and the record book competition. **Reece Hales** of Nazareth won the record book competition, while the partnership of **Clay, Cody** and **Clint Cooper**, all of Matador, took second.

National FFA agriculture learning program grants offered

Merial is awarding 16 grants for members of the National FFA Organization to help fund work-based agricultural learning programs. FFA members receiving the \$1,000 grants can use the funds to establish or to expand their supervised agricultural experience programs (SAEPs) tied to beef, dairy or sheep production.

FFA is accepting applications for the grants and will award them to members between the ages of 14 and 17 who demonstrate financial need and an exceptional SAEP. Students interested in the SAEP grant program can obtain applications from local FFA advisors, Merial sales representatives, animal health suppliers, on the FFA Web site (www.ffa.org) or on the Merial Web site (www.merial.com).

Completed applications and associated advisor's statements must be postmarked on or before Nov. 5. Individuals receiving a grant will be notified by mail in early December.

▶ Georgia Angus Ass'n Field Day, Covington



▶ Pictured with Ann Bell (left), Georgia Angus Ass'n president, are winners in the junior division judging contest **Savannah Tallent** (second from left), Covington, second place; and **Rachel Meadows** (far right), Swainsboro, first place. Jeff Tallent, Twin Hills Farm, is also pictured.

▶ Montana Junior Beef Expo, Lewiston



▶ Montana royalty are (from left) **Katrina Dubs**, Billings, princess; **Kimberly Arntzen**, Hilger, queen; and **Karin Romanchuk**, Grass Range, princess.



▶ Montana Junior Angus Ass'n officers are (from left) **Pam Patterson**, Columbus, advisor; **Katrina Dubs**, Billings, secretary; **Kimberly Arntzen**, Hilger, vice president; and **Alex Wheatcroft-Hooker**, Luther, president.



▶ Pictured with Ann Bell (left), Georgia Angus Ass'n president, are winners in the senior division judging contest **Will Cabe** (second from left), Carnesville, second place; and **Brandon Walker** (far right), Lexington, first place. Jeff Tallent, Twin Hills Farm, is also pictured.

▶ Washington Angus Ass'n Field Day, Buckley



▶ The Washington Junior Angus Ass'n officers are (from left) **John Han-son Jr.**, Tenino, west side director; **Jimmy Palmer**, Bellingham, secretary; **Shannon Crabtree**, Kingston, vice president; **Tim Lewis**, Ephrata, east side director; and **Jason Crabtree**, Kingston, president.



▶ Washington Angus Ass'n queen, **Rashel Asmussen**, Loomis.

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Shady Brook to offer pick of heifer crop for Angus Foundation

Shady Brook Angus Farm, Leoma, Tenn., has donated a pick from their fall 2001 heifer calf crop to headline the 2002 Angus Foundation Heifer Package.

The package will sell at the 2002 National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo., and all proceeds from the sale go directly to the Angus Foundation, which supports youth, education and research.

The sale of the package will kick off the 2002 National Western Angus Bull Sale, which is set for 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17,



in the Beef Palace Auction Arena at the NWSS.

The buyer of the package will have the opportunity to choose a heifer sired by such bulls as B/R New Design 036, GDAR Traveler 71, Basin Rainmaker 654X, B/R New Design 323, Bon-View Bando 598 and Connealy Frontline. The buyer is asked to choose by May 15, 2002.

"The Santini family has graciously donated a pick from their 2001 fall heifer calves, which include some of the breeds' top bloodlines," says James Fisher, director of activities and junior activities for the American Angus Association. "Each year the response to our outstanding heifer

package has increased, and the generous support of the donor and bidders is what allows for a substantial contribution to the Angus Foundation."

In addition to the heifer, the buyer receives 30 days of free insurance from American Live Stock Insurance Co., Geneva, Ill.; free transportation to the buyer's farm or ranch, provided by Lathrop Livestock Transportation, Dundee, Ill.; a flush and three embryo implants into the buyer's recipients from Trans Ova Genetics, Sioux Center, Iowa; and Ivomec® provided by Merial.

For more information about the Angus Foundation Heifer Package or about ways you can contribute to the Angus Foundation, log on to www.angusfoundation.org, contact the Association at (816) 383-5100, or talk to any Association regional manager.

