



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Take time to notice the small things

We are all guilty of speeding through life too fast. Sometimes slowing down to notice details can be very important. Take time to notice deadlines, another exhibitor struggling to get an animal to the ring or someone who looks in need of cheering up. My grandmother always told me to stop and smell the flowers every now and then. A little caring goes a long way.



Jamie Hower

When I was showing at my first big Angus show in January 1998, I was the kid sitting in the bedding with her heifer, making sure every piece of dirt was brushed off. I fell asleep numerous times on her shoulder, only to be awakened by her licking my head. I didn't know anyone, and I was too scared to introduce myself. I helped my mom clip her the best way we knew how, and I showed her wearing blue jeans, a long-sleeved shirt and huge brown barn boots. I am sure I established a real fashion statement.

However, I was proud of the two third-place ribbons I was awarded, so I hung

them on either side of her name sign. Toward the end of the week, I thought I would never meet any other kids and would never learn how to properly care for my animals at big shows.

I was wrong! Dad and I were loading up the chute when we were approached by a popular breeder from our state. I didn't know what to do, so I stood by my dad's side and hoped that I had not done something wrong. They proceeded to tell me that I was an interesting junior member and looked like I could use a little guidance. I remember the ride home as if it were yesterday. I am sure Dad wanted me to be quiet, but I just could not stop talking about Angus cattle and how I was going to learn new things.

Since then our friendship has grown. I have made some key purchases from the breeder's farm, and some of those cows are now foundation females in my fast-growing herd. They took time to notice my details. They watched me back in that stall, loving and caring for my heifer. They knew that I would be the right kind of person to grow and help change the Angus industry. They took the time to make me feel important.

Each time I show cattle or walk down the

street I try to notice the details. If there are juniors spraying people and other heifers at the wash rack, instead of mumbling about their inaccurate aim, take the time to show them a better way. Those young members might take that to heart and remember your kindness.

I took part in the mentor program at nationals this year. I remember my two protégés, Jill and David. I will always take the time to notice what they are doing and what shows they have taken part in. I wish them lots of luck.

So remember to stop and look around, notice people, care about what you do, and make an extra effort to show people you care. Fall is rapidly approaching, school starts, fall calving is well underway and we are all very busy with the end of the summer show season. Just take that five-minute break, sit back, explore the horizon and enjoy the life you have.

— **Jamie Hower, Bethlehem, Pa.**

Quilt to be resold to support juniors

In 1998 Paula Carpenter, Deer Creek Ranch, Saint Jo, Texas, purchased the "Sunrise on the Farm" quilt to provide support for the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla., the following year.

"This beautiful and unique quilt has been a true source of enjoyment to us and to our customers who attend our sales or visit here, since it hangs on display in our sale barn," Carpenter says.

"We are now faced with dispersing our Angus herd, and we wanted to continue the tradition the quilt established, which was to help the Angus juniors. We felt the best way to do this was to donate the quilt back to the Kentucky association for the next junior national," she says. "If you knew how much I love quilts, and if you could see my quilt collection, you would know this really does indicate our desire to benefit the young people in Angus; we'll miss the quilt, but we want it to serve a better purpose."

The one-of-a-kind, handmade quilt was constructed by Sandra McKinley and Gayle Hughes of Oklahoma. The quilt will be on display during the Deer Creek dispersal,

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MAA attends Canadian show

Miss American Angus Cortney Hill-Dukehart, Sykesville, Md., attended the Canadian Junior Angus Association's (CJAA's) Showdown 2002 in Barrie, Ont., July 18-20. Youth representatives from the Red Angus Association of America, the Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society of Scotland and the Dansk Aberdeen-Angus Forening of Denmark were among the 95 participants at the international showdown.

▶ Miss American Angus Cortney Hill-Dukehart (third from right) attended the Canadian Angus Junior Ass'n Showdown 2002. Pictured with her (from left) are Alecia Karapita, president of the CJAA; Michael Roberts, Scottish Junior Angus Ambassador; Alaina Burt, Junior Red Angus Ass'n of America director; Anders Friis, Dansk Aberdeen-Angus Forening—Danish Angus Society; Kelsea Kiker, Junior Red Angus Ass'n of America director; and Bryan Willms, past president of the CJAA.



It's a good deal

by Callie Smith

What can you do with \$20?

I don't get an allowance and being only 12 years old, I am not yet qualified to enter the workforce. However, I am lucky enough to have some grandparents and sisters who will let me rake leaves, wash dishes or do various other chores for a few extra bucks.

So, what can I do with \$20?

For about \$7, I can go see the new *Star Wars* movie; throw in popcorn and a coke, and the price just jumped to \$12 for two hours of excitement. Grass seats at the amphitheater to watch mine and every other teenage girl's favorite boys' band are \$18 for three to three and a half hours of nonstop music. But the best deal I have found yet is \$20 a year to join the National Junior Angus Association and have a lifetime of fun, entertainment and new friends. As the Mastercard commercial says, this experience is "priceless."

The NJAA offers me countless opportunities. As a member of the NJAA, I can travel across the United States to places I have never been before. I also have the chance to enter various contests where I can learn more about the Angus industry and the beef industry in general, and also win prizes and scholarships that will prepare me for my future.

Not only that, but these shows and contests have taught me several life lessons. First, if you don't work at it, you are never going to get good at it. No matter how great my show heifer is, I am never going to win a blue ribbon without working with her and taking care of her. I have also learned about responsibility. No one makes me show Angus cattle; I do it because I love it, and if I don't get up and feed my heifer and wash her every day, no one is going to do it for me. These are lessons that are far more valuable than \$20.

But the most priceless gift that the NJAA offers is the valuable friendships I have made. Not only has the NJAA offered me great role models in green jackets to learn from, but I have also met people my age from all over the country who have become my best friends.

No other organization or club that I have ever been involved in has given me the type of lifelong friendships that I have made through the NJAA. The new \$20 annual fee has made 6¢ a day a great bargain!

Editor's Note: The essay above, written by Callie Smith of Lebanon, Tenn., won the junior division of the first-ever National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) creative writing contest. Entries were received at the American Angus Association headquarters in June and judged prior to the 2002 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Milwaukee, Wis., where the winners were announced. Watch your November "Next Generation" column for another winning essay.

Monday, Oct. 14, 2002, at the ranch near Saint Jo, Texas, and again at the American Angus Association Annual Meeting Nov. 16-18, 2002, in Louisville, Ky. It will be auctioned at the Angus Reception Nov. 17. Proceeds from the sale of the quilt will go to the Kentucky Angus Association to support the 2003 NJAS.

Angus juniors named winners in fed beef challenge

Cole Gardner, Estancia, N.M., was the first runner-up in the senior division of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA) Junior Fed Beef Challenge in Canyon, Texas. He received a \$1,000 scholarship with this honor. Gardner was determined runner-up by a combined score in four areas — written exam, interview, record book and carcass performance of his steers. He tied for top honors in the written exam and was top in the record book competition.

The event is sponsored by the TCFA to test youth's knowledge of cattle feeding and to allow them to gain practical experience in commercial cattle feeding. Other Angus junior winners included **Clint, Cody and Clay Cooper** of Matador, Texas, who won second place in the pen-of-three division.

Sterkel receives Merial FFA grant

Evan Sterkel, Edgar, Neb., was one of 16 national FFA members awarded a supervised agricultural experience (SAE) grant from Merial, Duluth, Ga., to improve their projects in 2001. These young people utilized the funds in numerous ways to establish or enhance their SAE projects. Several students expressed that these grants allowed them to overcome circumstances that would have otherwise kept them from participating in an SAE.

"I started my cattle 'herd' when I was 9 years old. My grandfather helped me purchase a bucket calf," Sterkel says. "My herd has grown to five calves. With this grant, I plan to buy a purebred Angus heifer." Sterkel says he plans to breed the heifer to develop his purebred herd.

FFA is accepting applications for the 2002 Merial-sponsored grants until Nov. 11, 2002. Grants will be awarded to those FFA members demonstrating a financial need and a superior beef, dairy or sheep production SAE plan. Winners will be notified in December 2002. Applications can be obtained from local FFA advisors or by visiting www.ffa.org or www.merial.com on the Web.

▶ NEXT GENERATION

▶ 2002 Missouri State Fair Angus Show, Sedalia, Aug. 8



▶ These young exhibitors won top honors in FFA showmanship. Pictured (from left) are **Kyle Conley**, Clarksdale, champion boy; and **Mallory Trospen**, Hamilton, champion girl.

▶ These young showmen won the top 4-H showmanship awards. Pictured (from left) are **Cody Washam**, Pierce City, champion boy; and **Paige Wallace**, Mount Vernon, champion girl.



▶ 2002 Indiana State Fair Angus Show, Indianapolis, Aug. 11



▶ The Indiana Angus Auxiliary presented **Brian Howell** (right), Union City, with its 2002 Outstanding Junior Member Award. The award is based on applications made by junior members. Natalie Barker presents the award.

