

The Golden Glow

NJAA members emit a golden glow as 29 young cattlemen and women receive their Gold Awards.

by Megan Silveira, editorial intern

No matter where you are in the world, you can stand outside in the morning and watch a sunrise signal the start of a new day. As the fiery mass rises up into the sky, banishing away the darkness of night, it casts a golden glow across the land.

The sun is rising on a new age of the cattle industry. The golden glow of this sunrise, however, is not created by rays of sunlight. Young, fresh faces of upcoming cattlemen and women are emitting the golden glow signaling the start of the future for the Angus industry.

This year, 29 National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members received their Gold Award. For their dedication to the Angus breed, serving as advocates for the beef

industry and providing the golden glow to the NJAA, these members were recognized at this year's National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Madison, Wis.

As the sun rises on the bright future of the Angus industry, these young members are ready to tackle the challenges life has to offer them. The Gold Award is the most prestigious award offered to NJAA members.

Qualifying for the Gold Award requires members to have previously won the Bronze and Silver awards, each requiring 1,000 points. These points are accumulated by participating in junior activities, performance testing, producing and merchandising Angus genetics, and other events held within the Association. 🏆

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Joseph Adams

Hailing from Union Springs, Ala., Joseph Adams is no stranger to the Angus industry. He grew up on his family's farm, Adams Angus Farm, and learned early on what it means to raise the business breed.



Joseph Adams

"I cannot imagine my life without Angus cattle," says the son of Rob and Connie Adams. "Even though I have won judging contests, academic honors and two state basketball championships, the lessons I learned working with my dad and grandfather on the farm and showing Angus cattle taught me more about life and success."

Adams served as the president of the Alabama Junior Angus Association in 2014, a position

where he was able to share his love for Angus cattle with other NJAA members. The Cook-off and chef's challenge hosted at the NJAS have also been outlets for Adams' love for the breed.

Adams continues to work on the family farm while attending Auburn University (AU) where he studies electrical engineering. Adams says he is thankful to "clear his head" when he goes to the farm and truly enjoys putting the work ethic he developed as a NJAA member to good use.

Adams plans to continue raising cattle, and cannot wait to share his passion for the Angus breed with others as he transitions out of his membership in the NJAA.

Mark Alexander

"Since I was 9 years old, I've been an active Angus junior member and wouldn't take back a minute of my Angus experience," claims Mark Alexander, a showman from

Berryville, Va. "I've spent a lot of time reflecting on what the Angus industry has given me as a whole and what I have learned from many special individuals throughout my Angus journey."



Mark Alexander

Ten out of the last 11 years, Alexander has shown at the NJAS and participated in various competitions including public speaking, extemporaneous speaking, photography, livestock judging, quiz bowl, fitting, team sales and Cook-off. He says these activities have taught him about teamwork and self-improvement.

Alexander has certainly made a lasting mark on the Angus industry with his long list of achievements and involvement in the Association. Alexander is a NJAA member who is

“Even though I have won judging contests, academic honors and two state basketball championships, the lessons I learned working with my dad and grandfather on the farm and showing Angus cattle have taught me more about life and success.” — Joseph Adams

proud to say he learned from other industry professionals and then passed down all this knowledge to his fellow junior members.

Chuck and Linda Alexander’s son has taken his duty of helping younger members very seriously. Since 2013, Alexander has served the Virginia Junior Angus Association as either the treasurer, secretary, president-elect or president. Alexander believes NJAA-hosted events, such as Raising the Bar and the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, helped him prepare for these leadership roles.

Alexander is currently an agricultural technology major at Virginia Tech. He hopes his education will lead him to a position with John Deere, where he can find a career in the precision agriculture industry. No matter where life takes him, he plans on building his knowledge and love for the beef industry by continuing to raise purebred Angus cattle.

Jayne Bannister

An advocate for the Angus breed can be found in this animal science senior at Kansas State University (K-State). Jayne Bannister of Kent, N.Y., has been a contributing NJAA member since she joined in 2006.

The daughter of Roger and Christine Bannister, served as president for the New York Junior Angus Association for three years. Bannister has been a voting delegate for New York at the NJAS

and has participated in the LEAD Conference and Raising the Bar.

Bannister can be found in show rings across the country. Bannister is an accomplished showman, finding



Jayne Bannister

success in even the toughest of showmanship classes. If Bannister isn’t on the end of a halter, she is preparing for the several contests she participates in. From the Cook-off to livestock judging to the quiz bowl and even career development, Bannister has brought home the first-place ribbon several times. Bannister proudly represents all Angus breeders from New York wherever she goes.

Paige Birk

This NJAA member from Gordonville, Mo., understands the value of hard work. Paige Birk, daughter of Steve Birk, pushes herself in all areas of life. Birk has served as



Paige Birk

the director of the Missouri Junior Angus Association (MJAA) and found success in the show ring with several animals.

“Looking back on all the years I have been involved in the NJAA, I am very thankful to

have grown up in this generation,” Birk says. “I have met many new friends and peers who have the same love and passion for Angus cattle. This association has provided so many opportunities, from learning about the breed, advances in technology to better my herd to leadership skills that will all forever be beneficial throughout the rest of my career and life.”

Birk’s achievements are not limited to the confines of the show ring. The pre-pharmacy student at the University of Missouri-Columbia (MU) has received scholarships at both the state and national level for her determination in the classroom.

Birk’s successes in the National FFA Organization should also be noted. She previously won the Area Beef and Diversified Livestock Proficiency awards. Birk also received her American FFA Degree at national convention last October.

Birk is thankful to have grown up around Angus cattle and believes her time as a NJAA member helped her grow as an individual. She plans on continuing her involvement in the Association and hopes to keep producing fertile and sound cattle excelling both phenotypically and in their genotype.

Cody Boden

This cattleman from Clear Brook, Va., has a difficult time believing it has been 12 years since he first walked into the show ring. While

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Cody Boden jokingly admits he used to be scared of the large animals, cattle are now his biggest passion.

Even though the son of Michael and Ruth Boden did not begin his career in the cattle industry with



Cody Boden

scholarships and served the Virginia Junior Angus Association as director.

Since 2013, Boden has showcased his talents outside of the show ring through competitions at the NJAS. Team sales, livestock judging, quiz bowl, fitting, skill-a-thon and chef's challenge are just a few contests where Boden has prospered.

This animal science senior from K-State is no stranger to competition. Boden has been a successful member of the K-State Meat and Livestock Evaluation teams. Boden's love for the livestock industry is pushing him to further his education with plans to obtain a master's degree then find a career in cattle sales and marketing.

"I have developed a second family, an Angus family, that has taught me not only about the cattle but also myself," Boden reflects. "My cow herd and knowledge of the industry have grown because of my time spent as a NJAA member."

Jasi Anna Borman

Jasi Anna Borman is the daughter of Jason and Tammy Borman and has been a member of the NJAA since 2010. Borman has served as an officer for the Minnesota Junior Angus

Association for the past three years and wore the crown of Minnesota Angus Queen in 2016.

"As I look back on my career as a junior Angus member, I can't imagine how different my path would be and much would be missing if I wouldn't have joined," says the budding cattlemaster from Holland, Minn. "It has helped me develop skills which have helped me determine my future career path and has helped me to develop new interests in things I had never considered."

Borman has pushed herself outside of the show ring, participating in career



Jasi Ann Borman

development, photography and livestock judging competitions at the NJAS. Borman says all NJAA members are encouraged to try new

activities and she loved all the new opportunities the Association provided to her. While Borman loves time spent in the barn with her cattle, she also recognizes the importance of furthering her education. Borman is an agricultural communications senior at South Dakota State University (SDSU) and will be graduating in May of 2019.

Borman has found success on campus and is involved in several clubs and committees at SDSU. Despite loving her time as a student, Borman is eager for the future and plans on using the skills she gained from her time in the NJAA to help her find a career in marketing and advertising for an agricultural company.

Savannah Brauning

Savannah Brauning of Finksburg, Md., has proven her talent at the end of a show halter time and time again. The daughter of David and Kelly Brauning, she has been a force to be



Savannah Brauning

reckoned with in the Angus industry since she first stepped foot into the show ring at seven years old. Brauning has found great success with her cattle at all levels of competition, claiming several championship titles with her bred-and-owned (B&O) animals. Brauning is also the two-time director of the Maryland Junior Angus Association, a position where she was able to share her knowledge of the beef industry with others.

From the LEAD Conference to livestock judging competitions at the NJAS, Brauning's time in the cattle industry has led her to many different experiences and opportunities. She says her favorite part of being a NJAA member has been creating memories with the countless friends she has made from across the nation.

Brauning will graduate from Carroll Community College this fall with a degree in general studies and plans on applying to the University of Maryland School of Dentistry (UMSOD) dental hygiene bachelor's program. While her career choice leads her out of the cattle business, Brauning says she hopes to carry the same passion, dedication and work ethic she learned in the show ring with her as a dental hygienist.

"I am truly blessed to be a part of one of the greatest organizations out there," Brauning says about her time

"I have developed a second family, an Angus family that has taught me not only about the cattle but also myself." — Cody Boden

in the Angus industry. "I wouldn't be the person I am today without the wonderful experiences given to me within the NJAA."

Keegan Cassidy

A passion for the Angus breed can be found in the heart of Gold Award recipient Keegan Cassidy from Bloomington, Ill. The daughter of Jerry Cassidy and Erica Johnson, Cassidy is known by many Angus



Keegan Cassidy

breeders for her love of cattle and her successes throughout the industry. Cassidy is a former Miss American Angus who has continued to become more involved in the Association. She is no stranger to the NJAA, having attended the NJAS for many years and served in a various roles for the Illinois Junior Angus Association (IJAA).

"Looking back on my time as a junior Angus member, I cannot help but feel so blessed for the opportunities the NJAA has presented to me," Cassidy says. "I have been able to travel from Seattle to North Carolina while developing my leadership skills, learning about the beef industry and making lifelong friends at the same time."

Cassidy attends Oklahoma State University (OSU), where she is an animal science major with a minor in agribusiness and a pre-law option. Cassidy plans to attend law school after graduating in 2020 and will then

pursue a career in agricultural policy.

Cassidy says she is eager to see where the Angus industry takes her next, as she is a lifetime member of the American Angus Auxiliary. While Cassidy says she is sad to see her time in the NJAA come to an end, she knows her involvement with the Angus breed is just beginning.

Reba Colin

Since joining the NJAA in 2006, Reba Colin, Butler, Mo., has possessed a passion for Angus cattle. The daughter of Brad and Myra Colin, she is a recent graduate of Fort Scott Community College, majoring in animal and food science.

Colin plans to attend K-State to help further her knowledge in the cattle industry.



Reba Colin

A first-generation Angus breeder, Colin has worked to make her presence known in the industry. By serving in several positions for the MJAA and as the Missouri Angus Queen, Colin has showcased her dedication to the breed.

"My experiences in this Association have been amazing," Colin reflects. "The Angus industry has, by far, had the biggest impact on my life. The life skills I have learned through the associations related to the Angus breed are skills that have been vital to my growth as a person and as a respected cattlegirl."

While Colin describes her herd

as small, she is proud of the success she has had in the show ring. She names the NJAS in 2015 where she won Reserve Champion B&O Carcass Steer as one of her favorite memories while showing.

Colin is using the leadership skills provided to her by the NJAA to serve her community and the Angus industry. She is currently the president of the Bates County Junior Cattlemen's Association. She hopes to own her own processing plant in the future.

Corbin Cowles

Corbin Cowles has been calling the Angus industry home for many years. The son of Gil Ray and Mary Cowles can often be found wearing his green jacket as he proudly serves on the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB). With his passion for Angus cattle and a mind eager to learn new information, Cowles is leaving a



Corbin Cowles

lasting mark on the Association. "My junior career in the NJAA has done nothing but strengthen my passion for this breed and the business as a whole," says the Rockfield, Ky., native. "Being the future of the greatest beef breed organization in the world is extremely exciting, and the foundation of leadership skills the NJAA has equipped me with will have a lasting impact on my life."

Cowles balances his time working

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cattle with his education and is in his senior year at OSU. After he receives his bachelor's of science degree in animal science with a minor in agricultural economics, Cowles hopes to enter a career in purebred livestock marketing and sales. Cowles can picture himself working for a sales management firm and would embrace the chance to work for a breed association as a regional field representative.

Ashley Cox

A resident of Eagle Point, Ore., Ashley Cox is thankful for her time in the NJAA. The daughter of Brad and Buckley Cox has been making her presence known in the Angus industry since 2000. She credits the cattle industry with giving her the chance to attend OSU, where she is currently an agribusiness and animal science senior, because of the scholarships she received through the Association.

Being a third-generation Angus breeder, Cox fully immersed herself in the beef industry. She is no stranger to the show ring, and her cattle have brought home several championship titles at the local, state and national levels. She is grateful to have been able to carry on the family tradition of raising high-quality Angus cattle.



Ashley Cox

Cox has pushed herself to serve as an advocate for the breed since the beginning of her career as a junior member. She plans to keep this goal alive as she transitions into the workforce, searching for a career where she can educate the public about

Angus cattle and beef products. Cox is eager to give back to the breed that has given her "so much to be thankful for."

"In the last 12 years, the Angus Association has given me so much to be proud of and grateful for," Cox says. "Showing and raising Angus cattle has taught me countless characteristics like responsibility, dedication, work ethic, patience and compassion. These astounding qualities I've gained can be incorporated into my everyday life, education and the workplace."

Sierra Day

"I wish I could say that filling out my Gold Award didn't make me tear up just a little bit," admits the Cerro Gordo, Ill., native, Sierra Day. "Being an active Angus member from the



Sierra Day

very beginning has allowed me to seek so many opportunities and broaden my knowledge throughout the years." Ronald and Cheryl Day's daughter is an animal science junior with a communications and marketing option at K-State. Having attended Lake Land College (LLC) before transferring to K-State, Day is constantly gathering knowledge to help her find a career in the beef industry, where she hopes to combine her love for communications and marketing. Day is eager to become a "strong leader for the industry."

During her time as a NJAA member, what she describes as the best 21 years of her life, Day put time and dedication into serving the Angus breed. Day has been serving as

either president or vice president for the IJAA since 2015. In 2016, Day also served as Illinois Angus Queen.

Day's list of achievements is a long one. She was a part of a National 4-H livestock judging team, received an FFA beef proficiency award in the area of entrepreneurship and participated in an Artificial Insemination (AI) program at LLC.

Taylor Duckett

A fourth-generation Angus breeder from Tipton, Iowa, Taylor Duckett claims the most points accumulated



Taylor Duckett

amongst the 29 Gold Award recipients this year. Duckett has served in a leadership position with the Iowa Junior Angus Association since 2014. This former Iowa Angus Princess and Queen has received several scholarships and titles during her time as a NJAA member.

Duckett has made a name for herself and her showmanship abilities, bringing back countless championship titles to Iowa. Duckett's list of achievements in the ring are a reflection of the time she puts into her breeding program.

But Duckett's involvement in the NJAA does not stop there. Since 2007, Duckett has been dominating in the photography, poster, quiz bowl, livestock judging, team sales, fitting and quiz bowl competitions held at the NJAS.

Duckett divides her time between her cattle and her education. She attends Western Illinois University (WIU), where she is working to achieve her degree in

"Showing and raising Angus cattle has taught me countless characteristics like responsibility, dedication, work ethic, patience and compassion.

These astounding qualities I've gained can be incorporated into my everyday life, education and the workplace." — Ashley Cox

communications with a minor in agricultural business. After graduating, Duckett plans on following in her family's footsteps and hopes to expand her herd, knowledge and marketing abilities within the Angus industry.

"The Angus breed has taught me so much about the importance of family, hard work and leadership, and I am forever grateful for that," Duckett says. "The past 11 years have been nothing short of amazing due to the endless love and support from my Angus family."

Jaryn Frey

Former Angus queen for the Oklahoma Junior Angus Association (OJAA), Jaryn Frey, has an extensive background in the Angus breed.

This Kingfisher, Okla., resident and daughter of Mike and Jamae Frey is an agricultural economics and accounting senior at OSU.



Jaryn Frey

Frey has embraced involvement in the breed from serving as treasurer of the OJAA for four years to exhibiting a division champion at the NJAS.

Some of Frey's most cherished memories were created during her career as a junior member. While she enjoys her time in the show ring, Frey admits the way the Angus industry has helped to bring her family even

closer together is her favorite part about showing Angus cattle.

"Looking back at my time as a NJAA member, I have some of my favorite memories from the NJAS," Frey says. "My grandparents would always travel to wherever it was hosted to watch me show, leading the NJAS to eventually be the annual family vacation."

After graduating in May 2020, Frey plans to find a career in accounting. She is unwilling, however, to give up her love for the beef industry and plans on continuing to raise Angus cattle in the future.

Cassandra Garcia

This NJAA member from Renton, Wash., is proud of her time in the Association. Cassandra Garcia, granddaughter of Jim and Elsie Covey, will be entering her senior year at the University of Washington Tacoma (UW — Tacoma), where she is majoring in business administration: marketing and minoring in computing.

Garcia has big plans for her future. After completing her college education, Garcia hopes to purchase her own farm to raise Angus cattle on, start an agricultural business firm and serve on the American Angus Association Board of Directors.

With her background and previous involvement in the breed, Garcia has the experience to make these dreams become a reality. Garcia has served in various positions in the Washington Junior Angus Association (WJAA),

from a voting delegate to queen. Garcia served as the Angus Ambassador in 2017.

Garcia pushes herself in and out of the show ring. When she is not



Cassandra Garcia

sticking a show heifer, Garcia can be found showing off her skills on the computer or behind the camera. She has participated in the quiz bowl, photography and graphic design competitions at the NJAS since 2014.

"The capable, determined and strong young person I have become is because of the NJAA," Garcia says. "I will forever be grateful to those that supported my ambitions as a NJAA member, as well as to those who support the organization as a whole."

LeAnn Harward

LeAnn Harward, the daughter of Marcus and Patty Harward, has found success with several animals at various shows.

"I began showing when I was 9 years old and since then, it has developed into not just a hobby, but a lifestyle," says the Gold Award recipient from Richfield, N.C. "Throughout my years as a junior, I have greatly enjoyed the connections and memories I have been able to make through both the NJAA as well as my state organization."

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Harward has many talents, several of which extend outside of the show ring. She competed on award-winning teams at the NJAS and participated in photography, Cook-off, quiz bowl and fitting competitions.

Harward thanks the Angus breed for helping her achieve her dreams. Due to several scholarships offered to her as a NJAA member, Harward attends the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC) majoring in



LeAnn Harward

chemistry with a concentration in biochemistry and a neuroscience minor. After graduating, Harward plans on attending pharmacy school to receive her Doctorate of Pharmacy degree in pharmaceutical sciences. She then plans on finding a position as a research scientist to focus on pharmaceutical drug development.

Harward says her time as a NJAA member gave her the courage and tools to go out and pursue her goals.

Sara Hatlewick

Sara Hatlewick, the daughter of Bruce and Debra Hatlewick, has a strong past in the Angus industry. An agricultural education junior at North Dakota State University (NDSU), the Jamestown, N.D., native possesses a love for the Association and Angus cattle.

As a member of the North Dakota Junior Angus Association (NDJAA), Hatlewick pushed herself to be as involved with the breed as possible, from serving as princess and queen to representing her state by exhibiting several champions at a

variety of shows. Hatlewick made her mark in several competitions as well, placing in Cook-offs, photo contests



Sara Hatlewick

and creative writing events at the state and national level since 2014. “My family is in its fourth generation as Angus breeders, and we strive to make our contribution to the breed an important one,” Hatlewick says. “I am proud to have been a junior member and look forward to being an adult member, as well.”

Hatlewick plans to continue promoting the Angus breed after she graduates from NDSU. With the hopes of finding a career as an FFA advisor, Hatlewick will advocate for the Association and help other young members find their place within the beef industry.

By being involved in several clubs at NDSU such as Collegiate Cattlewomen, Saddle and Sirloin, and Collegiate Farm Bureau, Hatlewick is already sharing her passion for agriculture with others.

Katelyn Holmes

“My career as a junior member in the Angus industry has been something that I will forever be grateful for and has shaped me into the person I am today,” says Katelyn Holmes of Benton, Iowa. “I have no doubt these 11 years of being a junior member will be some of the best years of my life. I have done so much, learned even more than that and grown as a person because of this organization, and I can never say thank you enough to such an amazing organization.”

Katelyn Holmes embraced every

aspect of the Angus industry. She has won countless titles with her cattle at all levels of competition, won several national scholarships and served the Iowa Junior Angus Association in an officer position for seven years.

From the show ring to quiz bowl, livestock judging, creative writing, fitting and scrapbooking competitions, Colby and Tricia’s daughter has made a big splash in the Angus industry.

This agricultural education senior from MU will graduate with a teaching certificate and a minor



Katelyn Holmes

in agricultural economics. Holmes is eager to find a career as a teacher and FFA advisor. She plans on teaching before returning to school to achieve her master’s degree.

Holmes says the breed is a part of her future, and she cannot wait to encourage other aspiring cattlemen and women to find their places in the Association as NJAA members.

Wesly Johnson

Since 2005, Wesly Johnson has been making his mark in the Angus industry. A resident of Pipestone, Minn., Johnson has enjoyed every minute in the show ring. He knows without a doubt the NJAA shaped him into the cattleman he is today.

“Looking back, I am very thankful for the opportunities that I have experienced within the Association,” Johnson says. “The Angus industry has provided me with responsibility, leadership opportunities and countless learning experiences that will prepare me for the future.”

Johnson took advantage of those

"I am very thankful for the opportunities that I have experienced within the Association," Johnson says. "The Angus industry has provided me with responsibility, leadership opportunities and countless learning experiences that will prepare me for the future." — Wesley Johnson

leadership opportunities and served as the president and vice president of the Minnesota Junior Angus



Wesley Johnson

Association for the past two years. However, Johnson's involvement is not just limited to the state level. Aside from his time showing at the NJAS, Johnson has also represented his home state by serving as a voting delegate in 2016. Johnson looks forward to the NJAS every year and believes it is a chance to meet new people with the same passion for the breed he has.

While Johnson has enjoyed his time as a NJAA member, he is eager for the future. He says he is optimistic and excited to see what he can do for the industry. He has watched the breed change since the time when he first entered the Association, and he says he will play a role in helping the breed reach its highest potential in the future.

Johnson's desire to further develop the Angus breed drives his plans for the future. He says he cannot wait to continue raising high-quality bulls and females on his family's operation in their pursuit to produce the best Angus cattle possible.

Sarah Innis

The daughter of Jeff and Julie Innis, Sarah Innis is originally from Milroy

Ind., and has always possessed a love for the Angus breed.

This former president of the Indiana Junior Angus Association and Indiana Angus Queen has been recognized in and out of the show ring for her successes in the industry. With several titles claimed by Innis and her cattle, there is no question that Innis is a great representation of a dedicated NJAA member.



Sarah Innis

"My time in the Indiana Junior Angus Association and NJAA is coming to an end, but the information, skills and relationships I have gained will last my entire life," Innis says. "As a junior member, I have had the privilege to travel to some incredible places and meet so many wonderful people, and I have learned so much about myself and my own capabilities along the way."

Innis is thankful to have been surrounded by other agriculturalists as passionate about the cattle industry as she is while growing up. Innis says she is sad to see her time as a NJAA member approach its end, but would not trade the lessons and memories she created along the way for anything.

Innis is a biochemistry senior at Purdue University and plans to pursue a graduate degree in a biochemistry-related field and then

continue on to gain a position at a research firm.

Jesse Kostbade

"I became actively involved in the NJAA and the Association at a young age, learning early how to submit registrations, keep up with breeding records, how to balance genetics, EPDs and phenotypes to suit the situation," explains Jesse Kostbade, from Henderson, Ky. "Throughout my show career, I have spent numerous hours in the show barn



Jesse Kostbade

and developed the skills and knowledge of what it takes to get Angus show heifers presented at the highest level." The son of John and Laura Kostbade, has been dedicated to the Angus breed for many years, not missing a NJAS since 2010.

Graduating from ABS's AI school is just one reason Kostbade is considered a valuable member of the cattle industry. He manages to find time for attending livestock shows while still working to achieve his agribusiness degree at OSU.

After he graduates in May of 2019, Kostbade knows his love for livestock will continue to burn brightly. He hopes his collegiate livestock judging career will one day allow him to evaluate a major Angus cattle show.

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Kostbade plans on returning to Kentucky after school and developing new genetics capable of eliminating the segregation between production and seedstock cattle in the Angus industry. While his plans might be ambitious, Kostbade says he knows the NJAA has set him up with the skills he needs to reach his goals.

Dakota Lovett

Bladen, Neb., native Dakota Lovett is a NJAA member who thinks of heartfelt memories and lifelong friendships when he reflects on his time in the Association. Lovett is



Dakota Lovett

the son of Jeff and Sandy Lovett and an individual with a lot of experience in the Angus industry. Lovett is the current president of the Nebraska Junior Angus Association (NeJAA) and has claimed several championship titles while exhibiting his Angus cattle. When he isn't in the show ring, Lovett can be found in the classroom, pursuing an education to help him achieve his goal of filling a regional manager position with the Association.

Lovett recently graduated from Southeast Community College (SCC) with his associate's degree in agribusiness and management with a focus in livestock production. He is continuing his education at the University of Nebraska — Lincoln (UNL) where he plans on pursuing an animal science degree with a minor in agribusiness and law.

Lovett says he is thankful for the experiences he has had in the Angus industry, and he cannot wait to

achieve his dreams in the workforce.

"Bettering yourself every day is the key to life, and I truly believe that the Angus industry has given me just that," Lovett says. "When I joined the NeJAA, I had no idea how big of an impact it would have on my life, and the many strengths I would gain along the way."

Montana Lovett

Looking back on the times spent around her Angus family, Montana Lovett, the daughter of Jeff and Sandy Lovett, knows she was surrounded by the best of the cattle industry during her time as a NJAA NeJAA member.

"Growing up in the barn, whether it's your immediate family or people that have become family along the way, I wouldn't be who I am if I wasn't introduced to the NJAA," says Lovett, Bladen, Neb. "I will truly miss being involved in this organization."

During her years in the NJAA, Lovett served as historian and first vice president for the NeJAA and has found success in show rings across the country.



Montana Lovett

Lovett was a finalist at the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in 2017.

To achieve her dream of educating youth about agriculture, Lovett is currently getting her agricultural education and leadership degree at UNL. Lovett aims to someday coordinate a local or national cattle show and tie in an educational element to help further develop the youth education.

Lovett says she was able to find success in the breed because of her

parents and the knowledge provided to her by leaders in the beef industry. She hopes she can help other young cattlemen and women find their place in the Association, even after her time as a NJAA member comes to a close. No matter where life takes her, Lovett says she will never lose sight of the dream she has to raise high-quality Angus cattle.

Sarah Page

"I have had a passion for Angus cattle and the beef industry my whole life," says Sarah Page, a fifth-generation Angus breeder from Burlington, W.Va. "I knew the importance of the NJAA from a very young age because I joined the



Sarah Page

Association when I was less than one year old." Sarah Page has had a love for Angus cattle since her parents, Howard and Vera Page, introduced her to their cow-calf operation. Page prides herself on producing functional cattle, a goal she accomplishes by participating in Angus Herd Improvement Records, MaternalPlus®, genomic testing and foot scoring.

Page has raised several successful animals with her breeding program and received recognition at several shows across the United States. Page stays true to her roots though, and has served as secretary for the West Virginia Junior Angus Association since 2013.

At the NJAS, Page showcases her skills out of the show ring, participating on several award-winning teams. Page has helped bring

"I am inexpressibly grateful to have been a member of the NJAA. At the end of the day, I know that the experiences I've had and the people I've met will continue to impact my life long after my career as a junior comes to an end." — CJ Stevenson

home the gold for the senior division of the quiz bowl and has found success in the livestock judging and skill-a-thon competitions.

In addition to being a driven cattlegirl, Page is a dedicated student. She is entering her senior year at The Ohio State University (Ohio State) majoring in meat science. After graduation, Page is eager to take her knowledge back to the family farm and help educate consumers about the beef industry.

Jera Pipkin

From donning the red jacket during her time as Miss American Angus to the green jacket she now wears as a member of the NJAB,



Jera Pipkin

Pipkin and a fifth-generation Angus breeder. She says she is thankful for growing up in the breed and being a part of the NJAA.

Pipkin has brought home many championship titles with her cattle and placed first in the graphic design, quiz bowl, career development, Cook-off, team sales and public speaking contests at NJAS.

Pipkin will graduate in December from OSU with dual degrees in agricultural communications and animal science with a minor in

agribusiness. Pipkin plans to achieve her master's degree in agricultural communications with an emphasis in meat science at OSU and then pursue a career in the agricultural marketing industry. Pipkin says she is ready for the future because of her time as a NJAA member.

"I have watched myself grow into the young lady I am today, fostered many lifelong friendships and prepared myself for the years ahead," Pipkin says. "Every hour of contest preparation, every hour in the show barn and every hour spent on the road was well worth it, and I look forward to many more as I continue my membership in the Association."

Jessica Siedhoff

Roaming across Missouri and Montana, you can find Jessica Siedhoff working to AI cattle alongside Select Sires representatives. The daughter of Alan and Sheryl Siedhoff hails from New Haven, Mo.

This animal science senior from MU is no stranger to the Angus breed. Siedhoff has served as the director of the MJAA for two years and participated in the NJAS twice. Siedhoff served as the junior foods co-chair for the 2013 NJAS show and received the Gold Star Award. Siedhoff competed on the photography team at the national level in 2012, showing her skills to other Angus enthusiasts.

Siedhoff says thanks to her time as an NJAA member, she was able to travel to surrounding states to meet Angus producers, exposing her to a stream of information about showing

cattle and the beef industry as a whole.

"I have gotten the chance to watch top showmen in the show world to learn and improve my own showing abilities,"



Jessica Siedhoff

Siedhoff says. Siedhoff balances her time in the barn with her time in the classroom, currently working as a student research assistant at MU. Siedhoff's studies have tied her directly into the cattle industry, and she has found her passion for genetics. The recipient of the F.B. Miller internship, Siedhoff experienced firsthand what reproductive management is all about, focusing on AI and estrus synchronization. Siedhoff became certified in AI in the spring semester and has big plans for her future.

"I hope to have a career in the cattle industry in reproductive management," Siedhoff says. "I hope to grow my own Angus herd utilizing AI to improve their genetics."

Hannah Steph

NJAA member Hannah Steph, Tatum, Texas, says her time as a junior member quickly flew by. The daughter of Chris and Melissa Steph has spent the past 12 years being actively involved in the Angus breed. From serving as the director of the Texas Junior Angus Association (TJAA) to competing for the title of

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Miss American Angus, Steph took full advantage of all the leadership opportunities offered to her by the Association.

“There were many quiz bowl competitions, sales talks, LEAD conferences, Raising the Bars, officer



Hannah Steph speeches, and ‘Cupcake,’ my best show heifer,” Steph says. “It is a privilege to be a junior Angus member, but just like graduating from high school and going on to college, this is just another transition for me to learn from and to grow once again.”

Steph looks forward to growing her herd, staying in touch with her Angus family and pursuing a career. She says every time she participated in an Angus sponsored event, she grew as an individual and a showman. She is thankful to have met many people while she was a NJAA member.

“The organization, families, friends and competitions along the way have been such a big part of my life for the past 12 years that I sometimes forget that it was all a part of the Angus breed of cattle,” Steph says. “It is a great breed for sure, but it is truly the people behind the breed that make it great, and it is the people that I will miss the most.”

CJ Stevenson

The son of Darrell and Sara Stevenson, CJ Stevenson, Bozeman, Mont., has a rich background in the Angus industry, one extending far outside of the United States.

“As I look back on my career as a junior member, I can’t help but

reminisce on the experiences I’ve had and the network I’ve created,” Stevenson says. “I am inexpressibly grateful to have been a member of the NJAA. At the end of the day, I know that the experiences I’ve had and the people I’ve met will continue to impact my life long after my career as a junior comes to an end.”

Stevenson is an agricultural business junior at Montana State University (MSU), but has studied in the United Kingdom and Scotland.



CJ Stevenson

Society Headquarters in Edinburgh. He says this experience taught him about the origins of the breed and helped him better understand the similarities and differences in beef production around the world.

Stevenson describes his goals for the future as “ambitious, yet achievable.” After having the opportunity to travel globally, Stevenson hopes to contribute to the international expansion of the Angus industry and breed.

With the goal of becoming a viable cattle exporter, Stevenson plans to take advantage of more study-abroad opportunities. Stevenson wants to move the Angus industry towards a future where “we think beyond feeding ourselves and look to feeding the greater 100%.”

Derek Wolf

Derek Wolf, the son of Danny and Vivian Wolf from Windthorst, Texas,

is just as dedicated to his country as he is to his cattle.

Derek Wolf has served in several different leadership roles for the TJAA and found success in the ring



Derek Wolf

with his Angus cattle. From leadership conferences to contests like writing, photography and team sales, Wolf has always put his best foot forward in the beef industry.

Wolf has kept the same dreams for himself since he was eight years old and constantly aims to be the best version of himself.

“At the age of 12, I began to push myself and work on becoming a leader,” Wolf explains. “I began to show cattle, I became active in my church and I joined boy scouts. I learned a lot about leadership while showing cattle and held many leadership positions.”

Wolf will receive a business degree from Vernon College before transferring to Midwestern State University. After graduating, Wolf will attend Officer Candidate School for the Marine Corps and then attend Military Occupational Specialty Code School, where he will learn to fly helicopters for the Marine Corps.

After completing his training, Wolf plans on serving in the Marine Corps for 20 years before returning home to raise cattle. 🇺🇸