



THE BEST ON DIRT

Ten outstanding Angus juniors awarded American Angus Auxiliary Scholarships.

by Megan Silveira, assistant editor

Countless motivated and successful individuals have marched through the Kansas City dirt at the American Royal Complex. The 2022 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) was no exception.

While every National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) member brings a unique and admirable set of skills to the table, this year 10 members stood out from the crowd.

For more than 50 years, the American Angus Auxiliary has recognized the best on dirt with the American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship. The Auxiliary has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarships to these worthy young cattle producers.

Five female and five male recipients are chosen and ranked, with the scholarship pool divided amongst them based on their individual placings. Individuals must be nominated for recognition by their state or regional association the spring preceding their freshman year of college.

Five cattlemen are also selected by the Auxiliary during this application process to be entered



The American Angus Auxiliary's female scholarship winners will compete for Miss American Angus at the Angus Convention in November. Pictured receiving their award at the 2022 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) Awards Ceremony, July 8 in Kansas City, Mo., (from left) are Lizzie Schafer, Owaneco, Ill., first; Allison Davis, Shelbyville, Tenn., second; Kelsey Theis, Leavenworth, Kan., third; Alexis Koelling, Bowling Green, Mo., fourth; and Presley Sliger, Hamilton, Texas, fifth.

into the race for the title of Miss American Angus. The newest Angus royalty will be crowned at the annual Angus Convention in November.

The contestants for the 2022-2023 Miss American Angus title are Lizzie Schafer, Owaneco, Ill.; Allison Davis, Shelbyville, Tenn.; Kelsey Theis,

Leavenworth, Kan.; Alexis Koelling, Bowling Green, Mo.; and Presley Sliger, Hamilton, Texas.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS SHOW



LIZZIE SCHAFER

Hometown: Owaneco, Ill.
Parents: Aaron and Sue Schafer
High School: Taylorville High School
College: Butler Community College
NJAA Tenure: 18 years

As a young Angus breeder, Lizzie Schafer used to hold tails up at Schafer Stock Farm while her dad artificially inseminated cows. The Owaneco, Ill., native has since grown her list of responsibilities at the farm. She now manages feeding programs, breaks and works show calves, makes breeding decisions, creates promotional material, handles the vaccination programs and more.

One of Schafer's biggest joys is sharing the truth and passion of the beef industry with others. She's found a unique way to pursue this — she started selling her own Angus beef in 2020 under the name Farm Family Meats. As she's marketed high-quality Angus

beef throughout her home state, Schafer has been able to share her story with a variety of people and promote the *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB) brand.

"I want to help educate the next generation on the essential value of agriculture in today's world," she says. "I want to reveal the faces behind the slow-moving tractors, bawling cows and cowboy hats to consumers who seem to have forgotten the essential role of agriculture production."

As a stepping stone to reach this end goal, Schafer will be attending Butler Community College and compete on its livestock judging team before going on to earn a master's

degree in agriculture communications.

Her résumé boasts a variety of leadership positions and successes in the show ring.

"Throughout my Angus show career, I have exhibited bred-and-owned champions at numerous national, regional and state shows and have sold breeding stock to top 4-H and FFA members as well as other cattle producers," she says.

While the banners and titles are an exciting part of this work, Schafer says the best memories come from moments at the NJAS and the contests she participates in. Schafer says it's these events where she's seen the most personal growth and gained the most friends.

Schafer is receiving a \$2,200 scholarship for her dedication to the beef industry as well as the opportunity to compete for the crown of Miss American Angus.



ALLISON DAVIS

Hometown: Shelbyville, Tenn.
Parents: Mark and Loretta Davis
High School: Shelbyville Central High School
College: Kansas State University
NJAA Tenure: 10 years

It was her career in the NJAA and her FFA experience that helped shape Shelbyville, Tenn., resident Allison Davis's plans for the future.

"I want to give back to the agriculture community that has given me so many opportunities and supported me over the years," she explains. "As an 18-year-old, I am not sure of my exact path after college, but I do know that my future will involve the Angus breed and my Angus family."

When she first started taking advantage of conferences and events as a member of the Angus industry, Davis says she watched

herself grow in both her skill set and self-confidence.

Her career started with long days in the barn. Individual nutrition plans are matched to each show heifer, fences are checked, calves are watched and all chores done with a smile on Davis's face.

Time on the farm created skills such as time management and independence — skills that Davis says only encouraged her to dive headfirst into the world of Angus activities.

She went from a shy 9-year-old competing in her first NJAS public speaking contest to a soon-to-be high school graduate, ready

to pursue an agriculture communications degree at Kansas State University. She hopes to return to a breed association after graduation to give back to the industry that built her.

"When I became an active member at 9 years of age, I never imagined I would have the experiences I have been offered," she says. "The entire junior Angus program has made me the strong-minded, independent young woman I am."

Davis has spent the past several years working to leave her mark on the Tennessee Junior Angus Association. Membership has grown, activity has increased and fellowship sparked between Davis's peers.

For all that she's done as a junior Angus breeder, a \$2,100 scholarship and the chance to earn the red coat of Miss American Angus are being awarded to Davis.

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NJAS 2022

**KELSEY THEIS**

Hometown: Leavenworth, Kan.

Parents: Jerry and Tonya Theis

High School: Pleasant Ridge High School

College: Northern Oklahoma College

NJAA Tenure: 17 years

For as long as she can remember, Kelsey Theis says she has been inspired by the women who wear the red coat. The Leavenworth, Kan., native spent the past year serving as Miss Kansas Angus, a role she says gave her the opportunity to represent both the Angus breed and her home state. She has hopes to further her influence as a member of national Angus royalty.

"I have made it my goal to motivate other members to try new things out of their comfort zone so that they can gain more experiences," she explains. "I take pride in

being a leader that team members want to follow, as opposed to one that leads with too much force."

Through Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) and Raising the Bar conferences, Theis has been able to not only meet new people and visit beef operations across the country but also develop the skills she says will help her succeed in the future.

NJAA events and contests pushed Theis as an individual. She says she is thankful to be a part of an organization that has provided her with a strong foundation to accomplish her

biggest goals in the future.

"My time in the NJAA helped me develop the skill of working successfully with a team," Theis says. "I always take on new tasks with the goal of completing them to the best of my ability, as well as in an efficient manner."

Theis has plans to attend Northern Oklahoma College as a member of the livestock judging team. After finishing up her education at Kansas State University and graduating from vet school, she hopes to open her own practice in northeast Kansas.

No matter where life takes her, Theis says she plans to stay involved in her family's cattle operation. She looks forward to running various social media accounts or web-based venues to assist with marketing cattle while pursuing her own career.

The Auxiliary presents Theis with a \$2,000 scholarship and the opportunity to run for the crown of Miss American Angus.

**ALEXIS KOELLING**

Hometown: Bowling Green, Mo.

Parents: Robert Brock and Michele Meyer

High School: Bowling Green High School

College: Black Hawk College East Campus

NJAA Tenure: 10 years

"Influence is the definition of leadership," says Alexis Koelling. "I believe that anyone can have influence."

For Koelling, leadership is more than a shiny crown or a new title. It is about the willingness to help others, a willingness to serve a great cause and a willingness to never stop chasing after big dreams.

She says her priorities lie in raising cattle and helping push the industry forward. With her days spent on her family farm, Koelling never lacks in her ability to talk with peers and mentors about mating decisions, daily hair care and showmanship.

Koelling says she lives for serving as an

advocate for the Angus breed — and it's a role she loves. Conversations with fellow purebred and commercial cattlemen excite her, and Koelling says she never shies away from a chance to converse about the value and influence of The Business Breed.

Her list of duties on the farm includes supervising groups of cattle, utilizing technologies such as embryo transfer (ET) and assisting with pasture and hay management. There isn't an aspect of the work on the farm that Koelling doesn't want to be a part of.

It's this drive that Koelling's desire to serve as Miss American Angus stems from.

"I would love to encourage youth to get involved in this industry, to dream big, and never stop setting goals and working for their success," she explains. "I believe you get out of everything what you put into it, and I would make the most of this leadership role and serve with honor."

Beyond her goals within the Angus industry, Koelling has future plans of working with ranchers on their hay and equipment needs. She plans to attend Black Hawk East College before pursuing an agriculture business degree at a senior college. She eventually plans on returning to take over her family feedlot while continuing to market seedstock cattle.

For her efforts in promoting the Angus breed, Koelling is being presented a \$1,900 scholarship and the chance to fulfill her childhood dream of running for the title of Miss American Angus.

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PRESLEY SLIGER

Hometown: Hamilton, Texas
Parents: Rena and Doug Sliger
High School: Hamilton High School
College: The University of Texas at Tyler
NJAA Tenure: 7 years

After her alarm first goes off at 6 a.m., Presley Sliger says her day includes the typical chores and routine things other people her age do in the mornings. But the Hamilton, Texas, native has an extra step — caring for her Angus herd.

From feeding and washing to checking herd health, Sliger enjoys every aspect of preparing her Angus cattle for the show ring.

"Getting up every day has taught me to take the lead on stuff that needs to get done; feeding, washing and cleaning pens have taught me to work hard for the things I love, which is Angus cattle," she says, "in the end,

all these plus many more have helped me not only in the barn but at my job, school and sports. Without the responsibility of my Angus herd, I probably would not have the drive to hold myself to a higher standard to really do the things I am the proudest of with my whole heart, because having a herd of cattle is not for the faint of heart."

Being passionate about the cattle has allowed Sliger to push herself in other areas of her life. As a member of the NJAA, she's attended shows at the national level, competed in contests like sales talk and the Miss Texas Angus Competition, and served

in a leadership position with the Texas Junior Angus Association. At every Angus event she partakes in, Sliger says she looks for opportunities to help juniors find their place in the Association like she has.

Sliger says college is a vital next step in her journey. Her mind can hardly recall a time where she hasn't had the goal of becoming a registered nurse and providing top-quality care to people who need it.

While the path to this career is challenging, Sliger knows she has the ability to make her dreams a reality.

"Being involved in the NJAA, I have grown each year and learned new skills," Sliger explains. "It's not just the showing, but the wisdom I am gaining from all the opportunities the Angus breed has given me."

The Auxiliary is awarding Sliger a \$1,800 scholarship, and she will have the opportunity to run for the title of Miss American Angus.



COLTER POHLMAN

Hometown: Hereford, Texas
Parents: Scott and Moriah Pohlman
High School: Pohlman Home School
College: Texas Tech University
NJAA Tenure: 13 years

Tradition and Angus: two words that Colter Pohlman says go hand in hand at his house.

"For four generations, my family has raised registered Angus cattle," the Hereford, Texas, native says. "Throughout these generations, my family has chosen to serve the Angus breed on both a state and national level."

From daily chores to time in the show ring exhibiting his Angus heifers, Pohlman has capitalized on the many opportunities presented to him as a member of the American Angus Association, NJAA and Texas Junior Angus Association.

His list of activities and accomplishments includes a variety of leadership roles, attendance to numerous conferences and participation in livestock shows across the nation. As an active Angus breeder and member of the cattle industry, Pohlman says he looks forward to every opportunity to share the story of beef production with each listening ear available.

His eagerness and pride can also be seen in his ambition to run for the National Junior Angus Board of Directors (NJAB) this summer. It's another role Pohlman says will

give him the opportunity to serve the breed that raised him.

Pohlman has been awarded \$2,200 by the Auxiliary for his dedication to the breed. He says the scholarship will help him pursue his dreams of finding a career in the world of agricultural financing after graduating from Texas Tech University.

"Although traditions are important, tradition is nothing without ambitions for the future," Pohlman explains. "As I approach graduating high school and attending college, I realize that my ambitions might not ever have a definite ending place. The tradition of participating in the American Angus Association and ranching is one I hope my family continues for generations to come."

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NJAS 2022



SETH COX

Hometown: Eagle Point, Ore.
 Parents: Brad and Buckley Cox
 High School: Eagle Point High School
 College: Oklahoma State University
 NJAA Tenure: 9 years

"The American Angus Association focuses on the future and on the youth, emphasizing a strong value of leadership skills and implementing programs to assist in building desirable, beneficial and positive traits," says Seth Cox, Eagle Point, Ore. "I'm fortunate to take advantage of the gracious opportunities within the industry that's to better myself and return the benefit to my state junior Association."

Cox says one of his biggest goals is to encourage involvement from his peers in the agriculture business and increase total

numbers within the Oregon Junior Angus Association members. He's spent his time in the NJAA implementing committees within his home state to make these dreams a reality.

From FFA and 4-H to his work as an Angus member, Cox says he lives and breathes the "ranch life" — a choice that he says adds excitement and variety to his day-to-day list of chores. On the ranch he plays a vital role in the show barn, breaking, clipping and picturing show calves and individuals destined for the operation's annual production sale. Breeding and herd health decisions are

another important duty Cox handles.

"The cattle industry is my livelihood, passion and future. Being a third-generation rancher has been extremely rewarding and has instilled a great amount of pride in my work," he says. "This way of life truly set me ahead of my peers as I obtained a large sense of responsibility early in life."

Being so grateful for all that the Angus breed has done for him thus far, Cox says he's excited to build his future around The Business Breed. He has plans of running his own registered Angus and commercial ranch, all while serving as an advocate for agriculture.

With a \$2,100 scholarship from the Auxiliary, Cox will attend Oklahoma State University (OSU) this fall and major in agribusiness.



SUTER CLARK

Hometown: Gretna, Va.
 Parents: Timothy and Gretchen Clark
 High School: Gretna High School
 College: Oklahoma State University
 NJAA Tenure: 9 years

Beyond his list of accomplishments in the show ring on the national level, Suter Clark has a heart that beats for the Angus breed. He has spent his junior career giving back to the breed that built him. He has helped put on events within his state and currently serves as the president of his home state's junior association.

"The involvement I have had with the Virginia Junior Angus Association and NJAA

has put me ahead of my peers and prepared me for success," the Gretna, Va., local says. "I have learned to break out of my shell through activities like the NJAS mentoring program, LEAD and Raising the Bar."

Clark remembers the fun had at these events, but he says the biggest takeaway has been meeting people who share his love for black-hided cattle. It's this shared passion that has inspired Clark to run for a spot on the

NJAB in the future. He hopes a future in the green coat will allow him to continue helping the younger generations to find their voice in the industry and serve as spokespeople for beef production.

Before returning home to work for his family's construction company and manage their herd of Angus cattle, Clark will be attending OSU to study animal science and minor in construction management.

Clark is receiving a \$2,000 scholarship from the American Angus Auxiliary.

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BLAKE LONG

Hometown: Big Cabin, Okla.
Parents: Johnna Long and Rance Long
High School: Adair High School
College: Northern Oklahoma College
NJAA Tenure: 9 years

"No matter what season it is, my day starts with my cow herd," says Blake Long. "I believe I am extremely blessed to be able to live on a ranch and get to do what I do. The early mornings and long nights in the show barn, in the hay field and fixing fence have accelerated my work ethic and have turned me into the hard-working, diligent person I am today."

The Big Cabin, Okla., native lives for his cattle herd, but he knows that success doesn't come easy. Farm life has taught Long to appreciate the hard and the simple times,

and he says thanks to the American Angus Association, he is able to find something to smile about every day.

Long treasures the relationships he has forged with fellow cattlemen. Beyond the faces of The Business Breed, Long lists programs like Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®), MaternalPlus® and AngusLinkSM as tools that give Angus a leg up in the cattle world.

From the efforts at Certified Angus Beef (CAB) to the respect that comes with the Angus name, Long is proud to be a part of the

efforts to put a high-quality meat product on the table. His background as a cattle producer is the driving force for his future plans.

The rest of his life will be rooted in agriculture. Long will attend Northern Oklahoma College before continuing his education at Oklahoma State University. He hopes to obtain a master's degree in nutrition or bovine reproductive physiology.

"I want to bring my passion for agriculture to other people and make a difference in our industry," he explains. "Thanks to the NJAA and the people in it, I have been and continue to be pushed to do my best in being a better communicator, holding myself to a higher standard and becoming a leader that other people can look up to."

The Auxiliary is awarding Long with \$1,900 to help make his dreams a reality.



DAVID BELL

Hometown: Nottingham, Pa.
Parents: Dave and Tiffany Bell
High School: Oxford Area High School
College: Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology
NJAA Tenure: 7 years

As the sun rises over the Nottingham, Pa., landscape, David Bell can be found out in the show barn, bringing in his heifers and feeding them. Bell's days are happily passed on the farm, and he says he enjoys every aspect of raising livestock.

Dedication and time management are a few of the real-world life skills Bell was taught while in the barn. As a young Angus breeder, Bell says learning opportunities are never in short supply.

From committee roles with the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association to

helping host the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, Bell jumped at every opportunity to represent the Angus breed.

"Due to my participation within the NJAA and showing cattle, I moved from a very quiet boy into a young man that decides to take on new opportunities and challenges," he explains. "I realize that these skills that I learned during my years showing cattle and participating in contests have set me up for success in life."

Self-confidence is a positive feeling, Bell says, especially as he prepares to graduate

from high school. He has plans to pursue a career as a diesel mechanic and further his education at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology.

"Honestly, looking back, I cannot imagine that I would be as ambitious and courageous as I am now if it had not been for my time and commitment to the Angus breed and showing cattle," Bell says. "It took a few years for me to really appreciate all the time and dedication that it takes to show with excellence, but I am finally able to see that the hard work and time in the barn, the time with the animals, pays off. I will always appreciate the lessons I learned from the NJAA."

The Auxiliary is awarding Bell with a \$1,800 scholarship.