



Sydnee Gerken

## Childlike faith

*One morning in church I sat and listened to the pastor give the children's message. I reveled in each of the children's childlike faith. Every time Pastor asked a question, he was answered with so much enthusiasm and confidence. They were excited to be sitting in front of the altar talking about Jesus. The faith of these children reminded me of my own childlike passion for the Angus breed.*

When my dad pulled into the driveway and asked me to go for a ride, I was excited about where it would take me. I didn't know that ride would take me to the beginning of my show career and a newfound love for Angus cattle.

Now, I'm not the first to say that it hasn't been easy. All too often we lose sight of that faith and passion because of the constant scrutiny we are under. When your first bred-and-owned female aborts her calf or you don't do as well as you had hoped at the show, it is easy to slip into a dispassionate state. Maybe you are facing the uneducated society that we live in. Each of these situations proves difficult.

You might even want to give up. You're a whole generation behind where you would like to be, and now you have to worry about whether or not she is going to breed back. All of those long hours in the barn and the miles spent traveling didn't add up, and no matter what comes out of your mouth, you just can't seem to say the right thing to convince them that agriculture is not actually killing the Earth.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you,

plans to give you hope and a future," according to Jeremiah 29:11. Life gets tough sometimes, but there is a plan at the end of the tunnel.

When I get frustrated with a situation, my mom tells me that God has me right where He needs me. It's silly, but those words bring an incredible amount of comfort and then my childlike passion is restored.

Instead of getting down about your heifer, look at all the genetic advancements being made right in our own American Angus Association and see if one of those will help you get her bred back and stick. Go home with the lessons learned and the advice from the judge and put it to use. Educate yourself. Become knowledgeable about issues so that you are able to share your story. Never forget to go at all aspects of life with a childlike faith and passion.

— **Sydnee Gerken, Oklahoma**

## Bronze and Silver Awards

Jenna Hamilton, Buena Vista, Va., and Kole Lorentz, Woodville, Wis., have earned the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Bronze and Silver Awards according to Jaclyn Clark, education and events director of the American Angus Association.

**Jenna Hamilton**, the 17-year-old

daughter of Patty Hamilton, attends Parry McCluer High School. She is a member of the NJAA and the Virginia Junior Angus Association, where she has served as historian, treasurer, director and royalty, and currently serves as 1st vice president.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows. She has participated in the Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC) Mini Leaders Engaged in Angus Development conferences from 2008-2018.

She has also consigned cattle to the Gift sale.

**Kole Lorentz**, the 17-year-old son of Jeff and Kelli Lorentz, attends Baldwin-Woodville High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association, where he has served as co-show chairman and show chairman.

He has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Kole participated in the team fitting contest.

He has also submitted weight data to the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®).

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### Missouri State Fair 4-H Angus Show, Aug. 9, Sedalia



Winning top honors in showmanship are (from left) Rance Wheeler, Paris, reserve champion; and Alexis Koelling, Curryville, champion.

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### Missouri State Fair FFA Angus Show, Aug. 9, Sedalia



*Winning top honors in showmanship are (from left) Brooke Schnarre, Centralia, champion; and Ciara Raitel, Mexico, reserve champion.*

### Western Idaho Fair Jr. Angus Show, Aug. 17, Boise



*Winning junior showmanship are (from left) Emma Malson, Parma, champion; and Colter Meads, Hermiston, Ore., reserve champion.*



*Winning intermediate showmanship are (from left) Mackenzie Malson, Parma, champion; and Allison Larvik, La Grande, Ore., reserve champion.*



*Winning senior showmanship are (from left) Shelby Burlile, Emmett, reserve champion; and Jake Smith, Sequim, Wash., champion.*

### Wisconsin State Fair Angus Show, Aug. 11, West Allis



*Fountain Farms, Endeavor, won premier exhibitor*