

Compiled by Lindsay King

POSTCARD FROM A JUNIOR



Grady Dickerson

Animal Husbandry and Youth

A 7-year-old girl wakes up at the break of dawn and hurries out to collect the day's eggs from the chicken coop; a teenager spends an extra three hours training the family dog for this year's bird dog competition; and two brothers stop fighting just long enough to get their horses and finish driving in cattle for the day.

Growing up around animals is a common occurrence for the youth in the Angus breed, but not everyone had the benefit of being raised around animals that were more than just a pet. The responsibility, work ethic and compassion that a child or young adult can gain by taking care of a pet, and even more so a 4-H or FFA project, is something that I think a lot of people have started to take for granted. In fact, close to 70% of all U.S. households now have a companion animal of some kind. This means more people are taking advantage of raising an animal presumably without considering how it really helps their children.

Without even mentioning the work and time that we all put into our cattle herds, children and

teenagers can put an endless amount of time into training companion animals like dogs or cats without ever utilizing that animal in an agricultural setting.

How many parents have heard their kid plead for a puppy or kitten for Christmas or their birthday? And the parents' response is always the same, "Only if you will take care of it." The responsibility of owning a pet is then imprinted in that child's head forever, or at least until they forget to feed the dog one day. What I'm trying to get at is that even an animal that has no effect on a young person's livelihood has a tremendous influence on their personal growth.

When one does take into consideration the vast amount of effort that Angus youth put into their

family ranches and show programs, then it is easy to see where we, as those Angus youth, have a great opportunity for personal growth.

With a vast majority of the United States now having some sort of animal in the house, it might be easier to dismiss 4-H, FFA, and show projects as just mere pets. However, when an animal or herd does directly affect someone's financial stability, they take on a far more important role. The added compassion and drive to take care of the animals that we as youth are raising only adds to our resounding opportunities that are fundamentally gained from growing up around animals.

—Grady Dickerson, Kansas

Bronze and Silver awards

Charley Johnson, Orlando, Okla.; Sydney Johnson, Orlando, Okla.; Stuart Lastovica, Salado, Texas; Walker McDermott, Wiota, Iowa; Amelia Miller, Gridley, Ill.; and Lauren Parks, Brookfield, Mo.; have earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards, according to Jaclyn Upperman, events and education

director of the American Angus Association.

Charley Johnson, the 15-year-old daughter of Mark and Brenda Johnson, attends Mulhall-Orlando High School. She is a member of the NJAA and the Oklahoma Junior Angus Association, where she has served as director and currently serves as secretary.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Johnson participated in the photography, livestock judging contest and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB) Cook-Off. She also participated in the Leaders Engaged

in Angus Development (LEAD) conference in 2018 and the 2019 Raising the Bar conference.

Sydney Johnson, the 17-year-old daughter of Mark and Brenda Johnson, attends Mulhall-Orlando High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Oklahoma Junior Angus Association, where she served as director, secretary and second vice president.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Johnson participated in the photography contest, livestock judging contest and the Cook-Off. She also participated in the LEAD conference in 2017.

Stuart Lastovica, the 17-year-old son of Steven and Sandra Lastovica, attends Salado High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Texas Junior Angus Association, where he serves as director.

He has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Lastovica participated in the creative writing, livestock judging and skill-a-thon contests. He also participated in the LEAD conference in 2019.

Lastovica has consigned cattle to the ICA All-Breed Bull and Heifer Sale and is active in his local 4-H club and FFA.

Walker McDermott, the 18-year-old son of Beth McDermott, is a member of the NJAA and the Iowa Junior Angus Association.

He has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, McDermott participated in livestock judging. He also participated in the LEAD conference in 2018 and the 2019 Raising the Bar conference.

Amelia Miller, the 16-year-old

2019 Illinois State Fair, Aug. 12, Springfield

**Photo by Cindy Cagwin-Johnston, courtesy of the American Angus Association*



Reese Anderson, Chrisman, Ill., right, won the Tom Burke Young Achievement Award. Presented by Tom Burke, left.

2019 Iowa State Fair Angus Show, Aug. 13, Des Moines



Cale Jensen, Plainfield, Iowa, won premier breeder.



Rowdi Van Zee, Sioux Center, Iowa, center, won premier exhibitor. Pictured presenting the award are Allie Bieber, Iowa Angus princess, left, and Maggie Maas, Miss Iowa Angus, right.



Crowned Iowa Angus royalty (from left) are Allie Bieber, Waukon, Iowa, Angus princess; and Maggie Maas, Adair, Iowa, Miss Iowa Angus.

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daughter of Alan and Theresa Miller, attends El Paso-Gridley High School. She is a member of the NJAA and the Illinois Junior Angus Association, where she has served as director, show secretary and royalty.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Miller participated in prepared public speaking, extemporaneous speaking, quiz bowl contests and the Cook-Off. She also participated in the LEAD conference and the mini LEAD conference in 2017 and the Raising

the Bar conference in 2018.

Miller has consigned cattle to the Prairie View Farm Sale.

Lauren Parks, the 18-year-old daughter of Jeff and Mary Beth Parks, is a member of the NJAA and the Missouri Junior Angus Association, where she served as director, assistant secretary and royalty.

She has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Parks participated in the team sales, team marketing, public speaking, extemporaneous public speaking

and quiz bowl contests. She was also a participant in the mentoring program from 2015-2017 and served as a voting delegate in 2017. She participated in the 2017 Raising the Bar conference and the LEAD conference from 2015-2017.

Parks is active in her local 4-H club and FFA chapter.

2019 Missouri State Fair 4-H Angus Show, Aug. 8, Sedalia



Winning top honors in the showmanship contest (from left) are Annaliese Mead, Barnett, Mo., reserve champion showman; and Ella Jordan, Savannah, Mo., champion showman.

2019 Missouri State Fair FFA Angus Show, Aug. 8, Sedalia



Winning top honors in the showmanship contest (from left) are Reed Gooden, Lone Jack, Mo., champion showman; and Garrett Schuering, Thompson, Mo., reserve champion showman.

2019 North Dakota State Fair Angus Show, July 22, Minot



Crowned Angus royalty (from left) are Sierra Ellingson, Saint Anthony, Miss North Dakota Angus; and Jacy Hauge, Carson, North Dakota Angus princess.



Alexis Vandenberghe, Cleveland, N.D., was crowned North Dakota Angus princess.

**2019 State Fair of West Virginia,
Aug. 12, Lewisburg**



Natalie Phillips, Masontown, WV, received her Bronze and Silver Awards.

**2019 Southern National Junior Angus
Show, Aug. 25, Perry, Ga.**



Winning top honors in the showmanship contest (from left) are Zach Bartenslager, judge; Macy Taylor, Nashville, Ga., senior champion; Savannah Page, Jefferson, Ga., intermediate champion; Ellie Taylor, Nashville, Ga., junior champion; and Autrey Stalvey, Alapaha, Ga., novice champion.

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The logo for the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo features a stylized cowboy hat with a white brim and a red 'H' on the front, with white boots below it. Below the logo, the text reads "HOUSTON LIVESTOCK SHOW AND RODEO™" in white, "March 3 – 22, 2020" in white, and "rodeohouston.com" in orange. The background is blue with a circular pattern.



OPEN ANGUS SHOW

Wednesday, March 4 – 4:30 p.m.
NRG Center, Main Arena

Open Show Entry Deadline: Jan. 5, 2020
Late Entry Deadline: Jan. 15, 2020

For more information visit rodeohouston.com

Contact the **Houston Livestock Show™** at livestock@rodeohouston.com or 832.667.1125