

Compiled by Megan Silveira,
assistant editor



Kelsey Vejraska

The Angus Standard

Standard. An idea or thing used as a model or measurement in comparative evaluations.

Oftentimes we as humans get so caught up in following the standards set before us that we forget their origins or fail to think of how we can exceed them.

The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) is a prime example of exceeding standards. We as junior board members are encouraged to set high standards and achieve the goals we set for each other and ourselves.

When we established ourselves as candidates, it was obvious there was a set of standards we as candidates need to achieve.

These range from being punctual and organized to advocating for our junior association and even being a positive role model for the juniors who may look up to us. The transition

from candidate to board member is all of that and more.

As junior board members, we are the face of the NJAA. It is our job to develop and carry out programs and events to serve junior members and the Angus breed across the nation alongside the Events and Education team and develop leadership potential of the junior members, all while promoting the Angus breed.

As the largest junior breed association in the United States, it sounds quite daunting to have nearly 5,000 members looking up to you. However, we as junior board members are here to set the standard for the NJAA. We put in countless hours perfecting conferences, workshops and making sure shows run smoothly.

The driving force behind our efforts is knowing we are setting the standards for the junior membership. Our junior members are valuable, and seeing them grow through our term on the board is by far one of the most rewarding experiences.

Watching a junior go from a shy 14-year-old attending their first LEAD (Leaders Engaged in Angus Development) conference to an involved 16-year-old who is taking charge in their state association and setting the standard for the juniors in their state is a dream come true. This is exactly what we hope for as we begin our two-year term as a National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) member.

— Kelsey Vejraska

Bronze and Silver Awards

Alexis Borgstadt, Concordia, Mo., and Taylor Cooley, Lancaster, Wis., have earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards, announces Jaclyn Upperman, education and events director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo.

The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the NJAA Recognition Program that began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders must apply for the awards, then meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving the honors. Applicants are

evaluated in areas of junior Angus association activities and leadership, participation in showmanship, contests and shows, using performance testing to improve their herd, and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

Concordia, Mo., native **Alexis Borgstadt** is the first to earn her Bronze and Silver awards. The 19-year-old daughter of Steven Borgstadt currently attends the University of Missouri.

Borgstadt is a member of both the NJAA and the Missouri Junior Angus Association (MJAA). She has shown at all levels, including the National

Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

Tonia Busch-Feerin's 19-year-old daughter, **Taylor Cooley**, is the next recipient. From Lancaster, Wis., Cooley attends Southwest Technical College. She is a member of the NJAA and the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association (WJAA).

Having participated in shows at all levels, Cooley has also attended the NJAS, where she served as a voting delegate last year.

Cooley has also submitted data to Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®). 