

NEXT GENERATION

Compiled by Megan Silveira,
assistant editor

P O S T C A R D F R O M A J U N I O R



Kinsey Crowe

NJAA's most valuable asset? The juniors.

Have you ever wondered what your most valuable asset is? Is it your cows, land, family or maybe your best characteristic, like work ethic?

Throughout the years, those most valuable assets are going to change as your life turns out how it is meant to be and your future self reaches where you are supposed to settle.

While we have changing assets in our life, we also have some that don't change. A few examples of this could be your family, faith or both. These assets are ones we fall back on every day, but they also are what challenge us to be better. In the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), we speak on how we are an "Angus family," with which we constantly strive to make a difference.

As your board of directors for the NJAA, we have multiple goals to influence our most valuable assets, our junior members, of course!

We strive to have the best influence we can on each of you. We want to reach the juniors and make their experience the best there is in a junior association in the cattle industry. You may have heard some

of us tell our story of how past board members or other breeders in the Angus industry have affected us and made our experience so amazing that we wanted to give back and affect the new and upcoming generations in the industry.

Have you ever had someone have such a large influence on you in the industry? Did they make you want to make a difference for someone else or? If so, that is a good thing!

Life is about trying to become better. We constantly hear in the industry how are we going to have a better influence on the world and our consumers. Our whole world as cattle producers is about trying to improve and looking for ways to challenge what we are doing now, so we should strive to be an even bigger asset than we already are in the world.

You, as juniors, are the next generation to help the Angus and agriculture industry become that

big asset. Not only do we as junior board members strive to help you, but we also are trying to remember our why. Our "why" is to inspire our juniors and keep you all wanting to come back to our shows, events and conferences.

You are the ones who challenge the 12 of us to do better for the future of the junior association. I hope we challenge you all to find your why and figure out how you can gain those assets you may need for your why. It is a pyramid effect in a way, and we hope to be the base for you, to hold you up, so you can be successful individuals.

Find your most valuable asset, whatever it may be, to be the best future for the Angus industry, advocates, farmers, ranchers, junior board members or breeders. Thank you, juniors, for being our most valuable assets.

— Kinsey Crowe

Bronze and Silver Awards

Rylee Closser, Hebron, Ohio; Cheyenne Handsaker, Pearl City, Ill.; and Sydney Sanders, Leesburg, Ohio, have earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards, according to

Caitlyn Brandt, events and education director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo. Elise Meche, Moganza, La., has earned the NJAA's Silver award; and Austin Johnson, Pitkin, La., and Claire Kuipers, Le Roy, Ill., has earned the

NJAA's Bronze award.

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.

Hebron, Ohio, local, **Rylee Closser**, is the 21-year-old daughter of Fred Penick. She is currently studying animal science at Ohio State University.

As a member of the NJAA and the Ohio Junior Angus Association (OJAA), she has shown at the state, regional and national level. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Closser has participated in the Skill-a-thon, livestock judging and photography contests.

She has also attended Angus Convention.

Cheyenne Handsaker is studying ag business and animal science at Butler Community College. The 18-year-old Pearl City, Ill., native is the daughter of Paul and Dianne Handsaker.

As a member of the NJAA and the Illinois Junior Angus Association (IJAA), Handsaker has served as director, royalty and secretary. Her career in the show ring has allowed her to compete at the local, state and national level.

She has attended the NJAS and participated in the quiz bowl contest. Handsaker has also consigned cattle to the Cattlemen's Choice spring and fall sales, Iowa Cattlemen's Sale and WBIA Performance Bull Sale.

Seventeen-year-old **Sydney Sanders** is from Leesburg, Ohio. She is the daughter of Dave and Mindy

Sanders and attends Fairfield Local High School.

As a member of the OJAA, she has served as secretary and currently fills the role of vice president. In addition to showing at the state, regional and national level, Sanders has participated in the NJAS mentoring program.

Elise Meche is from Morganza, La. The 15-year-old is the daughter of Hilary and Jake Meche, and she currently attends STEM Magnet Academy of Point Coupee. In addition to the NJAA, Meche is a member of the Louisiana Junior Angus Association (LJAA). She has served as royalty and currently serves as director.

Meche has shown at the local, state and national level. Her list of involvement at the NJAS includes the photography, graphic design and poster contest and the mentoring program.

LJAA member, Austin Johnson, is 15 years old. He is the son of Kassandra Johnson, and the Pitkin, La., native currently attends Pitkin High School. He has served his state association as second vice president and vice president.

As an active member in the NJAA, he has participated in shows at the local, state and national level. He has attended the NJAS, where he has participated in the mentoring program.

Claire Kuipers is from Le Roy, Ill. Trever Kuipers' 13-year-old daughter attends Le Roy CUSD #2. She is a member of the NJAA and the IJAA.

At the NJAS, Kuipers has participated in the extemporaneous speaking, photography and poster contests. She has been a part of the mentoring program and consigned cattle to the Illinois Angus Futurity.

2022 Missouri State Fair Angus Show, Aug. 11, Sedalia



Winning top honors in FFA showmanship (from left) are Paden Gilbert, Oldfield, champion; and Adrienne Bryant, Fulton, reserve champion.



Winning top honors in 4-H showmanship (from left) are Jace Pipkin, Republic, reserve champion; and Rhett Keaton, Anderson, champion.