



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

A time for reflection on the true meaning of Christmas

It is hard to believe that we have arrived once again at December's doorstep. The year has slipped away so fast. December is the



Mercedes Danekas

busiest time of year. Chores on many ranches and farms take on a whole different perspective as the weather makes the simplest tasks just a little more difficult. As juniors, many of you are busy taking final exams and finishing projects as the year comes to a close. Families are busy preparing for the holidays and pulling out all the stops for family traditions. Christmas is certainly a time of joy, a time for giving and sharing, for reuniting with family and friends, for tinsel and brightly decorated gifts. But I feel that Christmas is mostly a time to focus on what is really important. It is a time to stop and reflect about the true meaning of Christmas and to celebrate our families.

It is so easy to get caught up in buying presents, and rushing here and there to get things done for the big day that we don't enjoy aspects of the preparation. I know that this year I hope to take the time to celebrate and contemplate the blessings I've received this past year. As National Junior Angus

Association (NJAA) members, we've all been afforded wonderful opportunities.

Take a few moments to look at what your family has provided for you. For some of you that may mean several head of Angus cattle in the pasture, and for others maybe it's that one Angus heifer or steer. These are gifts that you need to take the time to truly appreciate. For it is from the gift of that black heifer, cow or steer that you'll learn so much. Ask yourselves, when was the last time that you thanked your parents for the opportunities that they have bestowed on you?

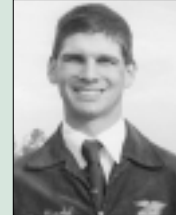
The time you get to spend with either of your parents, and brothers and sisters, whether it is at a cattle show, working in the barn or attending a breeder's sale, are gifts that, as time moves forward, can never be replaced. These are the gifts that are so much more important than those under the Christmas tree will ever be.

Even on my craziest mornings — like when I face a big test in my toughest class, and I need to order feed, set up veterinary appointments, make my judging team meeting and have a final paper ready for class the next day — when I'm in the barn at 5:30 a.m. and working with my cattle, they somehow put it all into perspective for me.

— Mercedes Danekas, California

Angus youth win National FFA awards

National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) member **Miles Kuschel** of Sebeka, Minn., won the National FFA Proficiency Award in Beef Production — Entrepreneurship.



Miles Kuschel

Kuschel joined FFA in 1997 and began his supervised agriculture experience (SAE) program by getting a loan to purchase 27 bred heifers. He also worked as a ranch hand on the Rocking K Ranch, near Nimrod, Minn., a commercial operation that uses registered Angus bulls.

Bradley Warren, Lebanon, Ky., was the winner of the 2002 National FFA Proficiency Award in Beef Production — Placement. Warren joined FFA in 1998 and began his SAE program by working at Silverton Hill



Farms, Springfield, Ky. He is a ranch hand and cares for just under 300 cows. His own herd consists of 16 Angus cows.

► 2002 Mississippi State Fair Junior Angus Show, Jackson, Oct. 7

► The Mississippi Junior Angus Ass'n board of directors includes (front row, from left) **Britt Magee**, Mendenhall; **Karen Woods**, Benton; **Trey Donahoe**, Indianola; **Morgan McDowell**, Indianola; **Brittney Henry**, Laurel; **Matthew Henry**, Laurel; (back row, from left) **Anthony Franks**, Mantachie, president; **Jon Paul Whitlock**, Iuka, vice president; **Kerry Knight**, Mantachie, secretary; **Jamie Overall**, Potts Camp, treasurer; and **Casey Clayton**, Mantachie, reporter.



► Mississippi Angus royalty are (from left) **Priscilla Giachelli**, Blue Springs, 2002 queen; **Emma Collins**, Morton, 2002 princess; **Casey Gargus**, Guntown, 2002 princess; **Crystal Palmer**, Ripley, 2003 queen; **Karen Woods**, Benton, 2003 princess; and **Kayla Coggin**, Nettleton, 2003 princess.



► **Mark Patterson** (right), Columbus, Mont., was selected as a national finalist for the National FFA Proficiency Award in Beef Production — Placement. Pictured with him is Gary Davis, National FFA Foundation Inc.

► **2002 State Fair of Oklahoma Junior Angus Heifer Show**
Oklahoma City, Sept. 22



► **Tyler Grissom** (right), Prague, recently earned his Bronze and Silver awards from the National Junior Angus Ass'n. Matt Caldwell, American Angus Ass'n regional manager, presents the award.

NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Phipps named 4-H Youth Ambassador

Wravenna Phipps, Kearney, Neb., was named as one of the 4-H Youth Ambassadors at the 2002 Ak-Sar-Ben 4-H Livestock Exposition in Omaha, Neb., Sept. 27. Phipps is the daughter of Bill and Robin Phipps. She will serve a one-year term and receive a \$1,000 college scholarship at the conclusion of her term.



Whitestone Heifer to Highlight Angus Foundation Heifer Package

Whitestone Farm, Aldie, Va., will donate a full sister of Connealy Dateline to headline the 2003 Angus Foundation Heifer Package. The package will sell at the 2003 National Western Stock Show (NWSS), Denver, Colo. All proceeds from the sale go directly to the Angus Foundation, which supports youth, education and research.

The sale of the package will begin the 2003 National Western Angus Bull Sale, set for 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 16, in the Beef Palace Auction Arena at the National Western Complex.

The package includes Eila Eila 755P of Whitestone, a Feb. 20, 2002, daughter of DHD Traveler 6807. Connealy Dateline, her full brother, was the eighth leading sire in number of progeny registered by the American Angus Association in fiscal year (FY) 2001, with 2,240 registered progeny. In FY 2002 to date, Connealy Dateline has 2,473 progeny recorded.



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| # Q A S Traveler 23-4 | # Band 234 of Ideal 3163 |
| # D H D Traveler 6807 | Q A S Blackbird Eve 601 1 |
| # Bemindful Maid D H D 0807 | # PBC 707 1M F0203 |
| | Bemindful Maid of R R 1079 |
| # Scotch Cap | # P S Power Play |
| # Eila Eila of Conanga | # Hoff Band 07 of S C 509 |
| Eila Eila of Conanga | # Pine Drive Big Sky |
| | # Effi Lou of Conanga |

In addition to the heifer, the buyer receives 30 days of free insurance from American Live Stock Insurance Co., Geneva, Ill.; free transportation to the buyer's farm or ranch provided by Lathrop Livestock

Transportation, Dundee, Ill.; a flush and three embryo implants into the buyer's recipient cows from Trans Ova Genetics, Sioux City, Iowa; Ivomec® provided by Merial; a semen package from Genex, Shawano, Wis.; and an Angus Information Management Software (AIMS) package from the Association AIMS Department.

"We greatly appreciate Whitestone Farm for their heifer donation to headline the next heifer package," says James Fisher, Association director of activities and junior activities. "Mark Duffell has selected one of the best heifers they produced this year, with proven genetics behind her."

For more information about the Angus Foundation Heifer Package or how to contribute to the Angus Foundation, logon to www.angusfoundation.org, contact the American Angus Association at (816) 383-5100 or visit with any regional manager.

