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Reagan Skow

### The importance of having a beacon

*I have a question for members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). What is the source of your “beacon of knowledge?” Why is it important to have a “beacon of knowledge?”*

While these questions may seem very formal or difficult to understand, let’s take a deeper look at what a “beacon of knowledge” may mean as members of the NJAA.

Your beacon can come from multiple places and have a variety of meanings. Some may get their knowledge from previous experiences and tasks they have completed. Many junior members obtain their ability to exhibit cattle from practicing at home, as well as going to many shows.

Others may learn from mentors and other experienced individuals. Personally, my mentor is my mother. She has been a source of motivation and taught me a variety of lessons,

helping me grow in ways that I know I would not have been able to on my own. Whether it was schoolwork or assisting on the ranch, she served as a beacon by passing her knowledge on to me.

Another way we can all expand our knowledge is by researching, studying and applying information. Throughout my junior career, I spent hours upon hours studying animal science and the history of the Angus breed, so I could perform well during the quiz bowl competition at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

So why is this beacon important, anyway? Expanding and building your skill set is immensely important outside of the NJAA.

These experiences and sources of knowledge help you become a better advocate for the Angus breed and the agriculture industry.

Throughout your lifetime, you will come in contact with and have conversations with people who do not understand the beef industry. Being prepared helps with these conversations. Additionally, being an educated producer, showman and student helps with your future performances and endeavors.

I challenge you all, regardless of age or experience, that in this upcoming year, you put expanding your beacon of knowledge high on your new year’s resolution list.

— Reagan Skow

### 2020 Kansas State Fair Roll of Victory Angus Show, Hutchinson, Sept. 19



Kaelyn Schilling, Edson, won premier exhibitor.



Jayce Dickerson, Paradise, won premier breeder.

Editor’s note: Photos by Legacy Livestock Imaging, courtesy of American Angus Association.

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## 2020 Louisiana Jr. Angus Ass'n Preview Show, Shreveport, Sept. 19



In the senior division of showmanship (pictured from left), Aaron Gray, judge, awarded Lani LeBouf, DeRidder, first; Kara LeBeouf, DeRidder, second; and Dave Wright Jr., Many, third. Also pictured presenting is Amalie Mabile, Louisiana Angus princess.



In the intermediate division of showmanship (pictured from left), Aaron Gray, judge, awarded Luke Natali, Lake Charles, first; Avery Crochet, Addis, second; Amalie Mabile, Brusly, third; Layton Terrell, Keithville, fourth; and Christian Corsentino, Denham Springs, fifth. Also pictured presenting is Lani LeBeouf, Miss Louisiana Angus.



In the junior division of showmanship (pictured from left), Aaron Gray, judge, awarded Liam Thiels, Boyce, first; Wyatt Mabile, Brusly, second; and Lain Thompson, Pineville, third. Also pictured presenting are Lani LeBeouf and Amalie Mabile.



In the peewee division of showmanship, Aaron Gray (left), judge, awarded Eli Thiels (right), Boyce, first place.



Aaron Gray (left), judge, awarded Luke Natali (right) supreme showmanship champion.

## 2020 Mississippi State Fair Jr. Angus Show, Jackson, Oct. 12



Pictured from left, Addy Flowers, Flora, was crowned the 2021 South Jr. Angus princess; Mattie Welch, Harrisville, was crowned the 2021 Southwest Angus princess; and Lanie Sutherland, Petal, was crowned the 2021 Miss Mississippi Angus. Presenting were Elizabeth Rone, Courtland, 2020 Miss Mississippi Angus, and Hannah Beatty, Pulaski, 2020 Southwest Angus princess. Photo by Melanie Kiani.



Winning top showmanship honors are (pictured from left) Mattie Welch, junior 1 champion; Ayden Wolken, Mendenhall, junior 2 champion; Ryan Purvis, Morton, intermediate champion; and Lanie Sutherland, senior champion. Photo by Melanie Kiani.