

# Angus Juniors Gather in



Junior Angus members attend LEAD conference in Music City.

by **Molly Witzel**

**T**he 2010 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, themed “Angus: Live and Loud,” brought together 207 Angus participants — including juniors ages 14-21 — from 34 states, Canada, Russia and Australia Aug. 5-8 in Nashville, Tenn.

Junior members participated in team-building and leadership activities organized by the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors.

“LEAD Conference is a unique, once-a-year opportunity for Angus youth,” says

► **Above:** Two hundred seven Angus participants gathered in Nashville for the LEAD conference. They are pictured on the Music City Walk of Fame.

Robin Ruff, American Angus Association director of junior activities. “The juniors had a great time and learned valuable leadership skills that will benefit them in all areas of their lives. Most importantly, their enthusiasm will encourage the success and future of the Angus breed.”

The conference opened with an overview of Tennessee agriculture presented by former NJAA member Jamie Smith-Nicholson, while speaker Diane Johnson of Details by Design presented a session on business etiquette and public speaking.

Conference attendees traveled to Deer Valley Farm, Fayetteville, Tenn., and Robert

Elliott & Sons Angus, Adams, Tenn., for operation tours and to broaden their understanding of the Angus industry.

The incoming NJAA Board members for 2010-2012 were introduced, and they presented a leadership workshop to conference participants. In addition, outgoing NJAA officers shared their retiring remarks.

On the final day of the conference, Rhett Laubach, motivational speaker and former Oklahoma FFA state president, provided an interactive and hands-on presentation about what it takes to be good leader.

While in the Music City, Angus juniors also spent time interacting with their peers



► Ken Givens, former Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner, welcomes participants to the state.



► Four international Angus youth from three countries participated in LEAD. (From left) Jennifer Ann Smith, Texas, assists Jasmine Nixon, Australia; Pavel Mateveev, Russia; Megan Kemp, Canada; and Kevin Bolduc, Canada, while they introduce themselves.

# Nashville



► **Kassandra Pfeiffer, Okla.,** nose dives during Ice Breaker games.

while sightseeing at the Country Music Hall of Fame, Music Row, Ryman Auditorium and Nashville Shores.

LEAD Conference is funded in part by the Angus Foundation.

For more information about LEAD, contact the NJAA at 816-383-5100 or visit [www.angus.org/njaa](http://www.angus.org/njaa).



**Editor's Note:** Molly Witzel was the 2010 American Angus Association summer intern for the Public Relations and Communications Department.



► **Joe Elliott and Robin Ruff** discuss Angus cattle and youth programs at Robert Elliott & Sons Angus, Adams, Tenn.



► **William Elliott** explains the importance of tobacco farming to Tennessee.



► Attendees work together on a team-building activity.



► LEAD attendees deliver donated backpacks and school supplies to youth at the Boys and Girls Club of Middle Tennessee.