



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

What it takes to be a champion

The days are getting longer, and the temperature is climbing — spring is here. This time of year always makes me want to forget about my schoolwork and other various responsibilities and spend every possible moment outside. It's my typical case of spring fever that I tend to get as summer approaches, and I greatly look forward to the numerous cattle shows that I will be attending in the upcoming months.

When I am preparing for these shows, my mind fills with anticipation to see those precious friends that I may only see once a year. Additionally, I used to dream about bringing home a champion ribbon from the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Although I never had a champion bull, heifer or steer at the NJAS, I look back and realize that the real winners are not always the ones who bring home the trophies; they're the ones who gain the most experience and the ones who leave the biggest impact on those around them.

There is a big difference between exhibiting cattle at a show and actually experiencing a show. Take a minute to look back at some of the shows you have recently attended. Did you introduce yourself to those stalled around you? Did you help out a young rookie showman? Did you take time out of your day to lend someone a helping hand?

If you answered "No" to all of these questions, then you probably didn't truly

experience everything there was to be experienced at the show. Now look back at the last National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) event you attended. Did you participate in any contests? Did you attend the NJAA dance? Did you participate in the mentoring program?



Trever Kuipers

The biggest thing that I have learned through my NJAA career is that everyone has the opportunity to be a champion. Although you may not claim that title in the showring, you can be a champion in so many different ways. As I think back to my early show days, I cannot remember whose cattle claimed the championship title. However, I *do* remember the names and faces of those people who helped me achieve success along the way. Those individuals will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will always see them as the true champions.

So the next time you are exhibiting cattle at a show, remember that only one animal is going to be named champion. And the ribbons and trophies won will be stored in a box or will collect dust on a mantel, but the experiences you gain from the event can change your life. Participate in a contest, make a new friend or help out someone in need. You might be surprised at the impact it will have on your life, as well as on others. By doing this you will have the opportunity to become a real *champion*.

—**Trever Kuipers, Illinois**

Angus youth win NILE merit heifers

Two Angus youth won breeding heifers from the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) as part of the 2003 Merit Heifer Program.

The purpose of the program is to help deserving youth learn more about livestock production and start their own cattle herds. Winners were selected on merit, based on written applications. The NILE was able to present the livestock for this project through donations from corporate sponsors and local ranchers.

Joshua Koch, Big Timber, Mont., received a heifer donated by Vermilion Ranch, Billings, Mont. Koch is the son of Jeffrey and Shere Koch.

Kaleigh Mikkelsen, Hobson, Mont., received a heifer donated by KG Ranch, Three Forks, Mont. Mikkelsen is the daughter of Rod and Traci Mikkelsen.

Fund-raising efforts continue for Eastern Regional

West Virginia junior Angus members and their families are in the final stages of fund-raising efforts for the 2003 Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show at the West Virginia State Fairgrounds in Lewisburg June 20-22.

A special thanks goes to Glenda Johnson for making and donating the patriotic quilt sold at the Rocking P sale for \$700. Thanks to Hi C Farm and Kinsey's Oak Front Farm for purchasing this donation.

You still have the opportunity to participate in the heifer raffle, T-shirt sales and many other fund-raising projects. Logon to www.angusjournal.com/2003easternregional for more information.

2003 Kansas Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting and Banquet, Jan. 25, Hutchinson



► **Jacob Stucky** (left), Kingman, receives a scholarship from the Kansas Angus Auxiliary. Pamela Bailey, Auxiliary president, presents the award.



► Kansas Angus royalty are **Megin Santee** (left), Langdon, the 2003 Kansas Angus Queen, and **Emily McCurry**, Burrton, the 2002 Kansas Angus Queen.



► **Right: Jeana Sankey**, Council Grove, receives the Kenneth and Lorene Moore Scholarship.



► **Left: Emily McCurry** (left), Burrton, receives a scholarship. Connie Ott presents the scholarship.

▶ NEXT GENERATION

▶ Arkansas Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting and Banquet, Jan. 4, Fort Smith




▶ The Arkansas Angus Ass'n presents **Jarrett Martin**, Lavaca, with the Progressive Junior Breeder of the Year Award. Pictured (from left) are Tom Huls, presenting the award; Martin; and Arkansas Angus royalty Holly Loyd of Centerton, Claire Taylor of Lavaca and Lana Phelps of Siloam Springs.



▶ The Arkansas Angus Auxiliary presents **Robby Shofner** (center), Bentonville, with a scholarship. Presenting the award are Everett O'Neal (left), master of ceremonies, and Leslie Morelock Roye, Fayetteville.



▶ **Robby Shofner**, Bentonville, receives the Arkansas Angus Ass'n Junior Volunteer of the Year Award. Pictured (from left) are Shofner and award presenters Teddy Morelock of Fayetteville and Arkansas Angus royalty Holly Loyd of Centerton, Claire Taylor of Lavaca and Lana Phelps of Siloam Springs. 

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