



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

The value of each other

Through the years, we all meet special people who walk into and out of our lives every day. Some will be your best friends for years to come, while others will leave a short, but lasting impression. However, I have noticed the friendships developed over the years through the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) leave an impression that lasts a lifetime.

Truly appreciated

During my time on the NJAA Board I have met so many remarkable, caring and inspirational people. These individuals devote so many hours volunteering, raising money and acting as role models. Unfortunately, they sometimes go unnoticed.

So, when deciding what to write, I thought of a poem I wrote many years ago to give to a few of my special friends as a gift. Now I admit I am not an exceptional writer by any means, but I truly believe these individuals who give that extra effort to our association and juniors are truly special angels. So I thought what better way to really let them know how much they mean to so many people than with a poem that hits home.

There are many things in life that I would like to be.
One of them is to be the true friend that you are to me.
You were always there to fill me with love,
Even during times that I looked for help from the one above.
The world is filled with so many special things.
It is sometimes hard to tell what our life will bring.
I want you to know that when you travel on,
You will always have my shoulder to come back and lean upon.

Throughout our lives we have grown
Into something that still might be unknown.
We may be choosing a path that will lead in different ways,
Yet we will always know where the other stays.
You will always have a special place in my heart.
It will be there in the end just as it was in the start.
We have our differences just like everyone does,
But that sometimes happens the reason because

You have always been there for me when I needed you.
I want you to know that I will always be there for you, too.
We have memories that we will never forget.
Of course there will be many more, I bet.
I wish there was some way I could try to repay
All of the happiness and joy that you have brought my way.
I don't know what I could do, but I will try my best to be
The true angel that you have been to me.

Please take the time to remember those individuals who have taken that extra step to make something special. Your time to say thank you or recognize the difference they make will leave a lasting impression. You never know when someday you could be someone's special angel.

— Tracee Veenstra, Minnesota



Tracee Veenstra

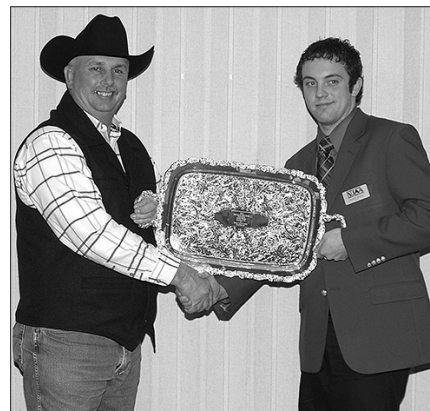
Ohio Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Plain City, Feb. 3



► Justin Brosey (right), Hamilton, receives the 2006 Boys Bred-and-Owned Award from Jamie King.



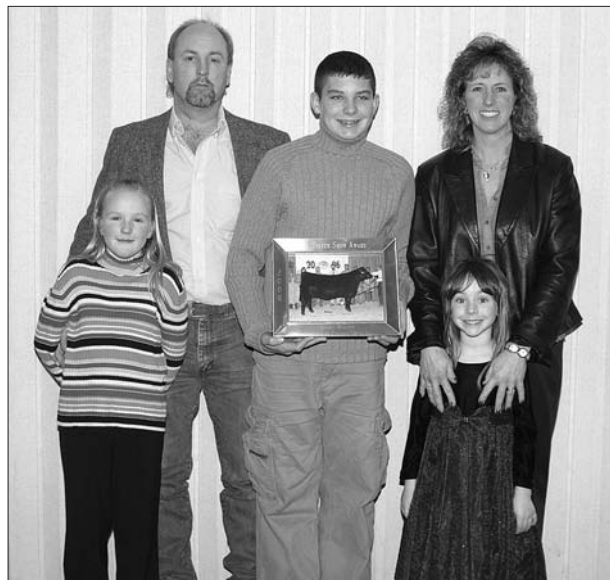
► Kayla Alexander (right), Sabina, receives the 2006 Girls Bred-and-Owned Award from Eric King.



► Tom Woodward (left) presents the 2006 Boys Silver Show Award to Justin Brosey, Hamilton.



► Junior Angus members elected to the Ohio Junior Angus Ass'n board of directors include (seated, from left) **Christina Egner**, Shelby, president; **Logan Deitrick**, Zanesville, vice president; (standing, from left) **Bailey Harsh**, Radnor, secretary; **Bethaney Enos**, Cambridge, treasurer; **Shyla Kreager**, Newark, assistant reporter; and **Krystin Bachman**, Lancaster, assistant treasurer.



► **Jordan Mullett** (center), Coshocton, receives the 2006 Junior Silver Show Award. Presenting the award are Christina and James Winter (left) and Caroline and Sharon Winter (right).

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► Whitney and Kent Bauman (from left) present the 2006 Girls Silver Show Award to **Kayla Alexander**, Sabina.



► **Kelsie Davis**, Zanesville, was crowned Miss Ohio Angus.

► **Hays Bros. Angus Ranch Production Sale**, Arcadia, La., March 17



► **Chad Welch** (left), Oakdale, receives the Landon Hays Scholarship from Mike Hays.



► **Matthew Greene** (right), Covington, receives a Landon Hays scholarship from Hays.

NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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▶ NEXT GENERATION

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▶ Michigan Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Mason, March 11

▶ **Right:** Officers and directors of the Michigan Junior Angus Ass'n board of directors are (seated, from left) **Erika Boehmer**, Charlotte, vice president; **Chelsea Ruggles**, Kingston, secretary; **Rachael Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, treasurer; **Dee Anne Merriman**, Lowell, and **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell, co-reporters and historians; (standing, from left) **Patricia Vaassen**, Ann Arbor; **Hope Bordner**, Sturgis; **Justin Ruggles**, Kingston; **Andrew Foster**, Niles, NJAA board director; **Justin Kennedy**, Nashville; **Rachel Reid**, Eaton Rapids; **Katie Reid**, Eaton Rapids; and **Julie Thelen**, Saline.



▶ Winning Premier Exhibitor awards are (from left) **Andrew Foster**, Niles, first; **Erika Boehmer**, Charlotte, third; **Julie Thelen**, Saline, and **Rachael Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, tied for fifth; and (standing, from left) honorable mention winners **Dee Anne Merriman** and **Kendra Merriman**, both of Lowell; **Patricia Vaassen**, Ann Arbor; and **Ricka Boehmer**, Williamston.



▶ **Dee Anne Merriman** (left), Lowell, receives the Outstanding Junior Member of the Year award from previous winner **Chelsea Ruggles**, Kingston.



▶ **Rachael Vaassen** (right), Ann Arbor, receives the Outstanding Senior Member of the Year award from previous winner **Andrew Foster**, Niles.



▶ **Left:** Angus members receiving certificates of achievement are (front row, from left) **Jeannine Wilson**, Gregory; **Hope Bordner**, Sturgis; **Breanna Taylor**, Gregory; **Dee Anne Merriman**, Lowell; **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell; **Dylan Kennedy**, Nashville; **Justin Ruggles**, Kingston; **Katie Reid**, Eaton Rapids; **Tabitha Grochowalski**, Ada; (back row, from left) **Ricka Boehmer**, Williamston; **Benjamin Goheen**, Deckerville; **Julie Thelen**, Saline; **Justin Kennedy**, Nashville; **Patricia Vaassen**, Ann Arbor; **Mitchell Goheen**, Deckerville; **Erika Boehmer**, Charlotte; **Drew Bordner**, Sturgis; **Rachel Reid**, Eaton Rapids; **Paige Tuggle**, Ithaca; **Chelsea Ruggles**, Kingston; **Rachael Vaassen**, Ann Arbor; **Andrew Foster**, Niles; and **Ryan Reid**, Eaton Rapids.

► South Dakota Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Watertown, Feb. 5



► **Patricia Vaassen** (left), Ann Arbor, was crowned this year's Michigan Angus queen. Also pictured is **Erika Bohmer**, Charlotte, 2006 Michigan Angus queen; and **Tabitha Grochowalski**, Ada, 2007 Michigan Angus ebonette.



► **Angela Kapperman** (center), Montrose; and **Heidi Graff** (right), Rutland, will serve as South Dakota queen and princess, respectively. Also pictured is **Sydney Geppert**, Mitchell, 2006 queen.



► Receiving scholarships are (from left) **Matthew Tollefson**, Clark; **Lee Kopriva**, Raymond; and **Charles Tesch**, Estelline.