



Next Generation

▶ Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Thoughts and challenges

“People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered; forgive them anyway. If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives; be kind anyway. If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies; succeed anyway. If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you; be honest and frank anyway. What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight; build anyway. If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous; be happy anyway. The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow; do good anyway. Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough; give the world the best you’ve got anyway. You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God; it was never between you and them anyway.”

— Mother Teresa

Greetings. I hope everyone has had an enjoyable holiday season thus far. This month we get to celebrate my favorite holiday: Christmas. It is the day when we get to celebrate the birth of Jesus and, of course, get a few presents if we’ve been good.

Anybody who knows me very well knows that I like to think a lot. I’m always thinking about something or other. In this article, I would like to get you thinking about something that I have observed throughout the course of my life, particularly in the last three or four years.

We live in a great country. We are free to worship our Lord without fear of persecution. We are free to make a living doing whatever our heart desires. We are free and responsible for ourselves. We are privileged to enjoy these freedoms due to a couple primary factors — the vision of our



Zebadiah Gray

forefathers, the constitution and the judicial system that they established, and, most importantly, the thousands of men and women who have given their lives and are currently serving to protect our country and the basic rights of humanity.

Yet, with all of this freedom, it seems many of our citizens still have trouble making ethical choices.

In a country where we have so much, the desire to have more has unfortunately driven many people to avoid what they know is right, ultimately inflicting hurt upon other citizens. It appears to me that there is a lack of integrity in the U.S. community. That worries me. Greed seems to be the driving factor in our making decisions rather than listening to our morals. People have forgotten the golden rule: Treat others as you want to be treated.

We have also become a nation of convenience. We think we need to have everything right now, our way, without

exception. It appears that some people feel that “hard work” is a dirty word. Both hard work and “working hard” (putting in the time required to get the job done) are critical to achieving success.

Does challenging work necessarily have to be painful? No! I believe a major key to success is learning to enjoy challenging work and to enjoy working hard. Challenging work is the work that people of lesser character avoid. If you assume that I’m saying people who avoid challenging work have a character flaw, you’re correct. A very serious flaw. If you avoid challenging work, you avoid doing what it takes to succeed. Hard work will beat talent every time talent doesn’t work hard.

I know this article may have a negative tone, but you can’t fix what you don’t address. As members of the agricultural community, you have been raised in an environment where integrity is demanded and hard work is vital. Junior members, you are the future leaders of this great country. Please, as you live life every day, do not just go with the flow. Create your own flow. Start every day as if it were on purpose. Live every moment of your life with integrity. Be courteous, work hard, treat other people as you would want to be treated, and never take for granted the freedom and opportunities afforded to you by living in this great country. Please keep our servicemen and women in your prayers this holiday season. God bless!

— Zebadiah Gray, Iowa

Association, API offer summer internships

The American Angus Association and Angus Productions Inc. (API) will offer summer internships to college students who want to learn more about breed association and publication work. The paid internships last approximately 10-12 weeks. The application deadline is Feb. 1, 2007.

The Association’s communications department is offering two internships to junior- or senior-level students majoring in ag journalism or ag communications who have an interest in the livestock industry. The public relations intern will be

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NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERMS UP IN 2007

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responsible for publicizing Angus events, including writing news releases and feature articles and working with digital photography. The intern will develop a media kit for the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) and will be assigned special projects as time allows. The intern will have the opportunity to travel to shows and events.

A communications internship is also available to students with a specific interest in writing feature articles, photography and design. The intern could potentially write feature articles and take stock photographs or write and design Association publications and educational materials.

Students who are interested in either the public relations or communications internships should have completed coursework in news and feature writing, as well as editing and photography. The applicants must be detail-oriented and able to work alone as well as part of a team. The public relations intern should have experience with livestock shows. Send a résumé, cover letter and writing samples to Shelia Stannard, Association director of communications and events. The interns will start in late May or by June 1.

The Junior Activities Department employs a college sophomore, junior or senior to assist in the planning and execution of junior Angus shows and leadership events. The intern will have the opportunity to travel and assist with the NJAS and Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference.

The intern is expected to perform daily in-office preparation for various junior activities, which includes correspondence and communication with the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors and others.

Applicants for the junior activities internship should have an ag-related major. They need to be detail-oriented, outgoing, have the ability to work well with all types of people and be a self-starter. Applicants who can begin the internship around May 20 will be given preference, due to the earlier dates of the NJAS. Any student interested in the junior activities internship should send a résumé to James Fisher, Association director of activities and junior activities.

API offers an editorial internship with the *Angus Journal* and *Angus Beef Bulletin* to a college junior or senior pursuing a degree in ag journalism or ag communications. The intern works with the editorial staff and other API and Association staff members. The intern will assist with feature and news writing, conduct interviews, report on Angus events and beef industry seminars, and have the opportunity to enhance photography skills.

Important dates and deadlines

January 2007

- 9-13 National Western Stock Show, Denver, Colo.
- 11 Angus Foundation Heifer Package sells, Denver, Colo.

February 2007

- 1 Ownership and entry deadline for the Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC) Show

March 2007

- 1 Deadline for Honorary Angus Foundation and Advisor of the Year nominations
- 1 Ownership and entry deadline for the Western Regional Junior Angus Show
- 9-11 MAJAC Show, Harrisonburg, Va.
- TBA NJAA Board Meeting

April 2007

- 15 Ownership and entry deadline for the Atlantic National Junior Angus Show
- 27-28 Western Regional, Reno, Nev.

May 2007

- 1 Deadline for Gold Award applications
- 1 Outstanding Leadership Award applications due
- 1 Ownership and entry deadline for Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show
- 1 CAB/NJAA scholarship applications due
- 1 Angus Foundation scholarship applications due
- 15 Ownership and entry deadline for Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show
- 15 Ownership and entry deadline for National Junior Angus Show
- 15 Entry deadline for NJAA Creative Writing, NJAA/*Angus Journal* Photography, and NJAA Graphic Design contests
- 15 Entry and recipe deadline for the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off

- 25-27 Atlantic National Junior Angus Show, Timonium, Md.

June 2007

- 1 Ownership deadline for The All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Junior Angus Show
- 10 Deadline for NJAA Public Speaking Contest speech outlines
- 15 Deadline for submitting names of state candidates and delegates for NJAA elections
- 15 LEAD registrations due (early registration deadline)
- TBA Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Prineville, Ore.
- 20 Entry deadline for The All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Junior Angus Show
- 22-24 Eastern Regional, Harrisburg, Pa.

July 2007

- 1-7 National Junior Angus Show, Tulsa, Okla.
- 26-29 The American Breeders' Futurity Junior Preview Show, Louisville, Ky.

August 2007

- 1 Ownership deadline (issue date) for NAILE Junior Show and American Royal Junior Show
- 2-5 LEAD Conference, Athens, Ga.

September 2007

- 1 Entry deadline for American Royal Junior Heifer Show
- TBA NJAA Board Meeting, Saint Joseph, Mo.

October 2007

- 1 Entry deadline for NAILE Junior Heifer Show

Note: *American Royal, NAILE and the National Western ownership deadlines are issue dates. All other deadlines are postmark dates.*

July 2008

- 13-19 National Junior Angus Show, Des Moines, Iowa

▶ SPOTLIGHTS

▶ AFA Student Advisory Team

▶ One of 12 students serving on the Agriculture Future of America (AFA) Student Advisory Team, **Mindy Montgomery**, Marshall, Mo., spent time at the annual conference in Kansas City, Mo., Nov. 2-5. The conference was themed "Embrace Your Roots, Launch Your Future." The organization celebrated its 10th anniversary.



▶ Keystone International Livestock Exposition, Harrisburg, Pa., Oct. 6



▶ North Carolina placed second in the Keystone Stockman's Contest. Shown are (from left) Cody Smith, Morgan Watts, **Brandy Cleveland** and Coach Mike Alexander. They competed in the meats, management and identification categories and received a \$90 cash award. Cleveland, from Mount Pleasant, N.C., also placed 4th individually.

Applicants should have experience with livestock and should have completed the following courses: Reporting I and II, editing, magazine writing or creative writing, photography or photojournalism. Microsoft Word and/or QuarkXpress or InDesign computer program knowledge and skills are also helpful. Students who can begin in mid-to late May are encouraged to apply. Interested students should send a résumé and writing samples to Shauna Hermel, editor.

All résumés should be sent to the appropriate person listed above at the American Angus Association, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506. Again, the application deadline is Feb. 1, 2007. If interested in multiple internships, please send multiple applications. Any students wanting more information can contact Stannard, Fisher or Hermel at (816) 383-5100.

Ken Troutt scholarship

Applications are now being accepted for the 12th Annual Ken Troutt Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship fund has been established in memory of Ken Troutt, renowned auctioneer for the Northwest and Cowman's Classic All-Breed Bull Sale. Scholarships of \$500 will be announced at the Feb. 27, 2007, "Cowman's Classic" All-Breed Bull Sale in Spokane, Wash.

To be eligible, youth (1) must be an incoming freshman in fall 2007, enrolled in a college or technical school, and (2) be an individual or son/daughter of an individual who has consigned or purchased bulls in the Cowman's Classic within the last three year's sales.

Applications are due prior to Feb. 15, 2007, and can be requested by contacting Kendall Cattle Sales, 1040 Kendall Rd., Potlatch, ID 83855; (208) 858-2163.

USDA announces annual FFA writing contest

Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns encourages National FFA Organization students to participate in the annual Risk Management Agency-FFA writing contest. The contest, a Risk Management Strategies for Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) program, gives FFA student members an opportunity to learn about agricultural risks and apply risk management tools.

"This contest encourages FFA students to consider how best to manage risk, just as policy-makers contemplate the same question in preparation for the 2007 Farm Bill," Johanns said. "It is important for young people to be engaged and aware of tools, such as sound risk management strategies, that will help to ensure their future success."

For their essays, students are encouraged to select a risk management strategy relative to their supervised program, analyze the risk, indicate tools used to minimize risk, and explain their application of these tools in an essay of no less than 1,000 words.

Ten national winning essays will be selected on the basis of content, adherence to the assigned topic, grammar, organization, originality and creativity. Each of the 10 winners and their advisors will travel to Washington, D.C., all expenses paid, for a special U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Risk Management Agency/FFA Day in April/May 2007.

The contest is open to current FFA students in good standing. Entries must be postmarked by Jan. 31, 2007, and should be sent to Risk Management Essay Contest, National FFA Organization, PO Box 68960, Indianapolis, IN 46268-0960. For more information, see the contest rules of entry at www.rma.usda.gov.

Colvin scholarship applications due Dec. 15

The Colvin Scholarship Foundation and Certified Angus Beef LLC are seeking applicants for 2007 scholarships. See page 88 for details.

