



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Experiences to grow on

Sitting in Chicago's Midway airport on my way back to school after visiting home — delayed once again — I noticed the many families traveling with young children. As I sat there watching the abundant number of little kids, I tried to reminisce what it was like to be that age again. As hard as I tried, I couldn't remember the small details. All I could recall was that it was a time of little responsibility and worry.

Foundation of integrity

The longer I sat there, the more I reflected on growing up. When did I begin to set expectations for myself, form my own



Andrew Foster

opinions or set my own goals? I realized that the standards I held myself to at a younger age do not even compare to the ones I hold now. The experiences that I have been through,

good or bad, have molded me into the young adult I am today.

Completing my last year as a junior member, I can look back and realize that the life lessons gained will forever stay with me as I carry on with my future endeavors. The value of integrity, which I have gained through this association, backed with the agricultural way of life that we are all accustomed to, shall remain integrally a part of how I form relationships and do business.

A quote that comes to mind is, "There can be no friendship without confidence and no confidence without integrity."

Integrity lays the foundation of our success in life, as we gain trust through others and live a life of character. To me, integrity is best defined as being honest, doing what you know is right, accurately speaking the truth and remaining faithful to those who are close to you.

As Angus breeders united in one association, it is our duty to be true to one another. Holding ourselves to high expectations will help keep our organization on top. It is when we stray from these fundamentals of life that we become vulnerable.

Another expectation I have held for myself is setting goals and achieving them. Through the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), each member is given a wide variety of opportunities to reach their full potential. Find your own special niche to be involved in and do whatever it takes to be successful.

Not everything always works as planned.

But, the key is not letting your so-called failures discourage you. Working through these obstacles gives you the chance to learn from your mistakes and you soon realize that these so-called failures are your biggest stepping-stones to success. Take this opportunity to realize if you go through life without any regret, then you must not be trying hard enough.

Now, looking back to those young kids running around, playing in the airport, not knowing or caring what the future holds, I become envious. The absolute courage they possess allows them to pursue whatever they wish, not knowing of any limitation.

I have realized that in order to be successful with the standards I have set for myself, I must not let obstacles get in my way. I challenge each and every one of you to take risks, follow your dreams and never let anything slow you down. Know no limits!

— Andrew Foster, Michigan

Junior entry booklets mailed

Every active junior member of the Association should have recently received a booklet of information regarding shows and events, entries, and deadlines for all 2008 junior activities. This booklet contains the rules, entry forms and information Angus youth need to participate in regional preview shows, regional shows, the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) and the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference this year.

If you are a junior member who's planning to participate in these events and you haven't received a packet, contact the Junior Activities Department at 816-383-5100.

Iowa will host 2008 NJAS

It's not too early to begin planning for the 2008 NJAS, "Christmas in July," slated for July 13-19 in Des Moines, Iowa, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The Iowa Angus and Junior Angus associations are inviting all to the event. The event will feature the largest single-breed beef cattle show in the world and a host of educational and leadership activities for youth 9 to 21 years old.

Look for the show schedule and hotel information in the junior information packet, in future issues of the *Angus Journal*

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or in the spring 2008 edition of the *Directions* newsletter. Online information is posted at www.njas.info.

Note these junior deadlines

- ▶ March 1 is the ownership and entry deadline for the Western Regional Junior Angus Show, which will be April 25-26 in Reno, Nev.
- ▶ March 1 is also the nomination deadline for Advisor of the Year and Honorary Angus Foundation induction.
- ▶ June 1 is the ownership and entry deadline for the NJAS.

Please note there are no exceptions to any of the ownership and entry deadlines. Please contact the Association if you need assistance meeting the deadlines.

Association can help with junior transfers

If you know of a junior member who has purchased or raised a heifer that he or she wants to show, please make note of all ownership deadlines. If a deadline is fast approaching and you haven't received the transferred registration, the Association can help. Contact the Association at least two weeks prior to the show ownership deadline. Every effort will be made to get the transfer processed in time. Remember, late transfers are never accepted, regardless of the reason.

Apply for Auxiliary scholarships now

The American Angus Auxiliary awards 10 scholarships annually to five boys and five girls who are graduating high school seniors. This year the Auxiliary has increased the scholarship awards to total \$14,000.

Junior Angus members must first be chosen as a state auxiliary scholarship winner before advancing to the national competition. Recipients are chosen from application forms that can be obtained from the American Angus Auxiliary web site at www.angusauxiliary.com, state Angus auxiliary scholarship contacts, or by contacting Michelle Rieff, Auxiliary scholarship chairwoman, at 479-795-2584 or by sending e-mail to michellerieff@aol.com.

Application information and a list of scholarship chairwomen are online at www.angusauxiliary.com. State scholarship contacts are also provided in the Auxiliary annual report published as an insert in this issue of the *Angus Journal*. The postmark deadline for the national contest is May 10.



▶ Indiana Ass'n Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, Dec. 28



▶ Indiana Junior Angus Ass'n board members are (seated, from left) **Garrett Knebel**, Winamac, president; **Kylee Carr**, Elwood, first vice president; **Kyle Jacobs**, Shirley, second vice president; **Katelyn Wilson**, Orleans, third vice president; (standing, from left) **Brian Jeffries**, Rockville, west central director; **Kyrsten Retherford**, Indianapolis, reporter; **Jacob Saunders**, Cloverdale, southern director; **Robbie Dragani**, Plymouth, assistant reporter; **Catherine Knebel**, Winamac, secretary; **Lauren Jernas**, Knox, communications director; **Adam Leeper**, Argos, treasurer; and **Carol Jeffries**, Rockville, adult board representative.



▶ **Knebel** is the 2008 Indiana Angus queen.



▶ Essay contest winners are **Leeper** (left), first place, and **Saunders**, second place.



▶ **Jacob Bush** (left), Flora, won the grand champion steer award; and **Kade Patton** (right), Frankfort, won the grand champion heifer and champion junior showmanship awards.



▶ Scholarship award winners include (from left) **Christina Harp**, Crawfordsville; **Leeper**; **Jenna Langley**, Walton; and **Carr**.

NJAA members earn Bronze and Silver

The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the National Junior Recognition Program (NJRP), which the American Angus Association began in 1972. To receive these honors, junior Angus members must apply for the awards and meet point requirements in many areas of participation.

Applicants are evaluated in the areas of junior Angus association activities, participation in showmanship and leadership events, use of performance testing to improve their herds, and progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

Bronze and Silver winners

Gretchen Frost, 18, Tallula, Ill. She is the daughter of Cimeron and Rachel Frost.

Thomas Wolfrey, 19, White Post, Va. He is the son of Dan and Judy Wolfrey.

Teddi Steadman, 14, Greenwood, S.C. She is the daughter of Mike and Tricia Steadman.

Breann Steadman, 11, Greenwood, S.C. She is the daughter of Mike and Tricia Steadman.

Joshua Scott, 13, Loranger, La. He is the son of Julius and Monette Scott.

Emelia Heimsoth, 17, Lathrop, Mo. She is the daughter of Scott and Rebecca Heimsoth.

Jacob Heimsoth, 13, Lathrop, Mo. He is the son of Scott and Rebecca Heimsoth.