



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Words into action

“People are like rubber bands. They are most valuable when they are stretched. Not when they are at rest.”

— John Maxwell

Walk the walk

Everyone has heard the cliché, “You can talk the talk, but can you walk the walk?” We have all met someone before who reminds us of this at one end of the spectrum or the other. With the presidential race well under way, every voting-age American cannot help but think about this concept. All the candidates, regardless of the party, have the task of standing in front



Kara Wilson

of their fellow running mates, opponents and voters to effectively present reasons why they feel they are most qualified to run the country. Many promises will be made, and many will most likely be broken in the months to come.

One of the criteria I use as a high standard for selecting candidates is trying to see through the flowery speeches and debates to determine which candidates are most likely to stand behind their \$5 words and not be

afraid to accomplish something for the good of the cause.

I have also learned in life that selecting political figures is not the only, or even the most important, area where I have learned to appreciate hard-working people. The family members, professors, peers, friends and advisors I look up to the most and hold with the highest respect are the ones who are always busy. They are the people who spend twice as much time working as they do talking. They are the people who when they tell you something, you know it is trustworthy. I can visit with them with confidence that if they have something to say, it is something worth my while to hear.

Some people are born with what I like to call “the gift of gab.” However, not everyone who is born with this gift is also born with the work ethic to follow through with the smoke and mirrors they might put on.

Being able to effectively communicate with all crowds is not at all a bad thing. I have often been accused of “never meeting a stranger” myself. In nearly every area of expertise today, it is important to be able to work with people and accurately express yourself. Yet, without the work ethic to

follow through with ideas, promises and bold statements, none of the words are worth the air used to say them.

This year the American Angus Association is celebrating its 125th year. To have such a long and successful history as the Angus breed has experienced, Angus enthusiasts have had to walk the walk. Many producers, state officers, juniors and advisors have had very strong work ethics to accomplish the strides that have been made.

In the current beef market, it is easy to look across the industry and see the influence Angus cattle have had. The vast majority of breed champions at any major show are black. The Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) program, after being launched in the late 1970s, has prompted a long string of branded beef programs where other breeds or companies are trying to capitalize on the idea. Feedlots and feeder calf buyers will pay a higher dollar for Angus-influenced cattle. Programs like AngusSource® are helping to ensure the value of the Angus-sired calves in large feedyards. It is hard to deny the hype and popularity of the Angus world. We cannot become satisfied with our current accomplishments and forget how hard we must continue to work for the next 125 years.

The quote from Maxwell is just an example of how when people are tested and put to work, they are worth more than when idle. A person who is full of promises and bold statements with no work ethic to follow through is like an unused rubber band — useless. However, someone who will push themselves or their organization and legitimately work hard, not for their own recognition but for the sake of keeping their word and benefiting others, are some of the most valuable people I have ever known.

Leadership tip of the month: Write down your promises to yourself. As you make goals or “things to do” lists, write them down and give yourself a deadline. By making a habit of keeping promises to yourself, you will more easily be able to keep your promises to others. Setting deadlines helps you to keep yourself accountable for the things you say you will do. This will also help you learn to stay on task simply to get the job done, not for recognition.

— Kara Wilson, Indiana

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NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Texas Angus Auxiliary scholarships

The Texas Angus Auxiliary will award two \$1,000 scholarships and one \$500 scholarship to Texas Junior Angus graduating seniors.

The deadline for Texas Angus Auxiliary scholarships is April 1. Applicants should have the application and letters of recommendation postmarked on or before April 1. To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be graduating seniors, members of the Texas Junior Angus Association for a minimum of two years prior to the application year and current members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

Also, the parent/guardian of the applicant must have been a dues-paying member of Texas Angus Auxiliary for a minimum of two calendar years prior to the application year.

Texas Angus Auxiliary will select a girl and boy winner to each receive a \$1,000 scholarship to the college, university or accredited technical program of their choice.

A \$500 scholarship will be given to the next highest-ranking application. The top boy and girl winners will each be forwarded to the American Angus Auxiliary to compete for national scholarships.

For information on the scholarship or an information packet including electronic copy of the application and requirements, please contact Erin Worrell at erin@theranchersresource.com.

Junior deadlines for Atlantic National

The ownership and entry deadline for the Atlantic National Junior Angus Show is April 15. Even though the event is a regional preview show for junior members, the Atlantic National show management accepts the entries. For information or to request entry forms, contact Harry Bachman at bachaut@lmf.net or 717-867-1822.

Junior deadlines forthcoming

Juniors should remember May 1 as the deadline for several application forms:

- ▶ Gold Award applications due
- ▶ Outstanding Leadership Award applications due
- ▶ Ownership and entry deadline for the Northwest Regional Preview Show
- ▶ Angus Foundation scholarship applications due
- ▶ Certified Angus Beef LLC/National Junior Angus Association (CAB/NJAA) scholarship applications due

May 15 is another important deadline:

- ▶ Ownership and entry deadline for the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show

June 1 deadlines include:

- ▶ Ownership and entry deadline for the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS)
- ▶ Entries for the NJAA writing, photography and graphic design contests due
- ▶ Entry and recipe deadline for the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) Cook-Off

For more information contact the Junior Activities Department at 816-383-5100 or go to www.njaa.info.

▶ Maryland Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Sykesville, Dec. 1, 2007



▶ **Jessica Clarke**, Rocky Ridge, receives the Golden Pitchfork Award.



▶ **The Brown family**, Federalsburg, is named Junior Angus Family of the Year.



▶ Maryland royalty include (from left) **Brittany Full**, Mount Airy, 2008 queen; **Christina Ritter**, Laytonsville, 2007 queen; **Kelsey Stabler**, Gaithersburg, 2008 princess; and **Emily Velisek**, Gaithersburg, 2008 princess.



▶ Outstanding members are (from left) **Christina Ritter**, Laytonsville, intermediate; **Emily Velisek**, Gaithersburg, junior; and **Jessica Lambert**, Frederick, first-year. Not pictured is **Thomas Wolfrey**, White Post, Va., senior.

Association can help with junior transfers

If you know of a junior member who has purchased a heifer to show and who has not received the transferred papers, and the ownership deadlines for a specific show are fast approaching, 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, however, late transfers are never accepted, regardless of the reason.

Undergraduate and graduate scholarship applications due May 1

More than \$100,000 in educational scholarships will be available this year to Angus youth through the Angus Foundation scholarship program. Applications must be postmarked on or before May 1 to be considered eligible.

Applications and instructions are available at www.angusfoundation.org. Please closely follow the instructions, as incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Note that there are separate applications for the NJAA/CAB scholarship and the new graduate student scholarship program that will be offered through the Angus Foundation this year.

