



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

The future of agriculture

"Burn down your cities and leave our farms, and the cities will spring up again as if by magic, but destroy our farms and the grass will grow in the streets of every city in the country."

— William Jennings Bryan

I have just returned from the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Indianapolis, Ind. I was thrilled to see so many junior members from around the country proudly exhibiting their animals in front of a judge and the crowd. It takes guts to bring your animals out for the public to admire and to criticize. It would be much easier to say you had a good one and then leave it home.

It was fun to catch up with old friends and to make new friends. A lot of discussion seemed to evolve around future professional goals. I heard many ambitious plans — individuals who want to become engineers, doctors,

lawyers, teachers, dancers, etc. The Angus industry can directly contribute its strength and success to our highly ambitious membership. I want to encourage everyone who pursues goals and dreams outside of the Angus business or the agricultural sector not to forget your roots.



Zebadiah Gray

Individuals with a farm or ranch background understand firsthand the hard work, dedication and pure passion necessary to overcome challenges and achieve success. If you choose to pursue

nonagriculture ventures, you are apt to have the opportunity to serve as the first defense of agriculture. You can establish yourself as a respected and trusted resource by applying your agricultural experiences and education to provide the facts. I encourage each and every one of you to accept the opportunity to serve as agriculture's advocate. Please promote our industry.

The ag sector makes significant contributions to the United States, besides being the largest sector in the American economy. One situation that America currently faces is in the energy market. American consumers today pay nearly \$3 per gallon for fuel. That represents a 300% increase in less than two years.

What industry sector is driving the development of alternative fuel resources? The agricultural sector! Imagine the repercussions if the United States were to lose the ability to produce the necessary food supply to feed its citizens. Think of the power other countries could dictate if America became dependent upon the food import markets. Agricultural producers, young and old, must take a stand and promote agriculture at every opportunity to foster continued industry growth and development. We all have an inherent responsibility to preserve our heritage and ensure our industry and country's future.

In 10, 15, 20 years, and for the adults who read this article now, please do not forget how you developed to become the person you are today. You not only grew up learning about hard work, sacrifice, personal dedication and integrity; you lived it while providing this country with its most vulnerable asset — nutrition.

Please, take a stand and promote agriculture at every opportunity you are provided by lobbying for land rights in Washington, D.C.; teaching fifth-grade children how cattle help the environment; or being a local 4-H group leader. I encourage Angus producers past, present and future to feed more than just bodies. Use your foundation to feed minds and our agricultural future.

—Zebadiah Gray, NJAA membership director

New internship

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Livestock and Seed Program, and the American National Cattlewomen Inc. (ANCW) have joined forces to establish an annual USDA internship for a young student who has participated in the beef checkoff-funded National Beef Ambassador Program (NBAP).

The NBAP, which began in 1988, selects a team of five young people, ages 17 to 20, to train as future spokespersons and leaders in the beef industry. The ambassadors present a positive beef message at consumer events where they can polish their knowledge and beef promotion skills. By selecting from young beef ambassadors, the USDA knows it will be gaining an "exceptionally qualified" intern, Carol Abrahamzon, NBAP project manager, said.

USDA and ANCW have always worked cooperatively on the ambassador program. USDA previously offered three internships before making the opportunity formal, Abrahamzon added.

The internship will be located at USDA offices in Washington, D.C., or, if it works better for the student, at a USDA field office. The student's responsibilities during the internship are "wide open," Abrahamzon said. "The goal is to keep the experience

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flexible so the intern has the opportunity to learn as much as he or she can.”

The internship recipient will be announced at the Cattle Industry Annual Convention in Nashville, Tenn., in February 2007.

Rieff wins state fair scholarship

Haley Rieff, Bentonville, Ark., was announced as a \$2,500 Witt Stephens Livestock Scholarship winner. Only two students received the scholarship.

“The scholarship is based on leadership in 4-H and FFA, community service and participation in the Arkansas State Fair,” Rieff said. “I was really excited about it. I didn’t expect to win it.”

Rieff will attend Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College for two years and then plans to transfer to Oklahoma State University to major in agricultural communications.

▣ Southern National Junior Angus Show, Perry, Ga., June 9



► Officers and directors elected to serve on the Georgia Junior Angus Ass’n board are (from left) **Katherine Throne**, West Point, treasurer; **Leah Bradley**, McDonough; **Cameron Clark**, Rochelle; **Kathleen Gazda**, Athens, president; **Henry Davis III**, Doerun, vice president; **Whitney Chitty**, Moultrie; **Taylor Gazda**, Athens, secretary; **Christa Royster**, Dacula; **Jordan Wood**, Perry; and **Clay Williams**, Bishop.

▣ Iowa Summer Junior Angus Show, Eldora, July 1



► Directors elected to the Iowa Junior Angus Ass’n are (front row, from left) **Jordan Paulsrud**, Danbury; **Sarah Stream**, Chariton; **Zachary Peterson**, Kent; **Cole Greiman**, Garner; **Lauren Barker**, Monticello; (back row, from left) **Glen Mommsen**, De Witt; **Weston Brandt**, Corning; **James Sweeney**, Alden; **Ashley Kuehn**, Durant; and **Samantha Schermer**, Latimer.



► **Lauren Schroeder** (right), Clarence, receives her Bronze and Silver awards from Don Laughlin, American Angus Association regional manager.



► Iowa Angus Auxiliary scholarship winners are (from left) **Tyler Baird**, Tipton, and **Lauren Schroeder**, Clarence.



► Iowa Junior Angus Ass’n board of directors are (from left) **Katie Jensen**, North English, historian; **Mallory Espenscheid**, Traer, historian; **Madison Henderson**, Drakesville, historian; **Kyle Greiman**, Garner, treasurer; **Bridget Driscoll**, Williamsburg, secretary; **Jordan Eggman**, Creston, second vice president; **Lauren Schroeder**, Clarence, first vice president; and **Wesley Ruby**, Greene, president.



► The voting delegates for the Iowa Junior Angus Ass’n are (from left) **Jordan Paulsrud**, Danbury, alternate; **Wesley Ruby**, Greene, delegate; **Bridget Driscoll**, Williamsburg, delegate; and **Austin Brandt**, Corning, alternate.