



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Remember character and attitude

As the end of my junior year at Oklahoma State University and my second term on the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board of Directors comes to an end, I am immersed in papers, projects and tests. As I looked at my calendar, I realized it was also time for me to write my final "Next Generation" article.

I thought long and hard for inspiration, which started me thinking back to some of the articles that were written when I was a younger member of the NJAA. I remembered how those NJAA leaders influenced me and helped develop me into the person I am today. Some of the articles were industry-related, while others were focused on character and attitude, which are the articles I truly enjoyed reading and the ones that really influenced me the most.

I took so many things away from those articles at the time and now, once again, as I have recently rediscovered them.

No matter how busy we all may think we get or how bad things may look, we should all take time to stop and reflect on how every step we have ever taken has led us to this very moment. This is often difficult for me to do. Many of you who have come to know me over the years know I am a very active person who loves to live for today and who often does not take the time to reflect on the path I have created, which oftentimes has gotten me into trouble. My one dream and wish as I reflect on how much the NJAA has meant to me is that I have made the same type of impact on your lives as each of the past and current Board members has made on mine. May each of you continue to influence all of those around you.

— Tyler Grissom, Oklahoma



Tyler Grissom

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American Royal changes, internship opportunity

Those exhibiting in the 2005 American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., should take note of the entry deadline change. Sept. 1 is the new entry deadline.

All cattle for both junior and open shows have to be in place at the same designated time. Junior cattle do not have a later arrival as in past years. Cattle entered in the junior show only will still be released at the conclusion of the junior show.

A new opportunity for youth is also in the works. The American Royal is developing an internship. The experience is designed for college-age students who are seeking a degree in ag communications, ag journalism or another related field and who are willing to work a minimum of three days — possibly six or seven days — during the American Royal to assist with media coverage of the event. The intern will have the opportunity to work in the media office writing and sending press releases and working with press contacts. For more information contact Penny Yates at the American Royal at penny@americanroyal.com or (816) 569-4023.

Western Regional Junior Angus Show, Reno, Nev., April 23



► **Heather Foster** (left), Snohomish, Wash., is crowned the 2005 Western States Angus Queen. 2004 Western States Angus Queen, Rachel Herbst, Salmon, Idaho, is also pictured.



► **Darren Herbst** (center), Salmon, Idaho, is presented the Western States Angus Auxiliary perpetuating memorial scholarship. Presenting the scholarship are Carla Malson (left), Western States Angus Auxiliary president, and Elsie Covey, Western States Angus Auxiliary secretary-treasurer.



► **Heather Foster** (center left), Snohomish, Wash., and **Darren Herbst** (center right), Salmon, Idaho, are presented the Western States Angus Auxiliary scholarships. Presenting the awards are Carla Malson (left) and Elsie Covey.

Last-minute junior deadlines

With summer already in full swing, it's easy to forget last-minute deadlines.

- ▶ June 15 is the deadline for submitting names of state candidates and delegates for NJAA elections.
- ▶ June 15 is the early registration deadline for the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference.
- ▶ June 25 is the deadline to submit outlines for the public speaking contest at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

- ▶ Aug. 1 is the ownership deadline for juniors wanting to exhibit in the junior shows at either the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo., or the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE).

Register now for LEAD

The annual NJAA LEAD Conference is set for Aug. 4-7 in Boise, Idaho.

All juniors 14 years and older are eligible to participate. This year's theme is "Strikin' it Rich." Juniors will have the opportunity to

make new Angus friends, learn about current beef industry issues and explore some agricultural areas in Idaho.

Registration materials can be found in the entry booklet that was distributed to all active juniors earlier in the year. Request materials by contacting the Junior Activities Department or go to www.njaa.info. Registration is \$175 until June 15, the early registration deadline. After that date, registration will be \$200. Registration is also available online.

Michigan Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet & Awards Program, Mason, March 13

▶ Young people receiving Premier Breeder awards include (seated, from left) **Erika Boehmer**, Olivet, second; **Andrew Foster**, Niles, third; **Julie Thelen**, Saline, fourth; and **Patricia Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, fifth. Winning honorable mentions are (standing, from left) **Rachael Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, and **Justin Ruggles**, Kingston.



▶ **Hope Bordner** (left), Sturgis, is presented the Outstanding Junior Member Award. Previous winner Kendra Merriman is also pictured.

▶ The Michigan Junior Angus Ass'n board of directors includes (seated, from left) **Andrew Foster**, Niles, president; **Rachael Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, vice president; **Julie Thelen**, Saline, secretary; **Danielle Foster**, Niles, treasurer; **Renee Thelen**, Saline, NJAA director; (standing, from left) **Erika Boehmer**, Olivet, co-reporter; **Chelsea Ruggles**, Kingston, historian; **Hope Bordner**, Sturgis, director; **Patricia Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, director; **Benjamin Canfield**, Clarksville, director; **Paige Tuggle**, Ithaca, director; and **Wren Schroeder**, Deckerville, director.



▶ Young people receiving Premier Exhibitor awards include (seated, from left) **Andrew Foster**, Niles, first; **Julie Thelen**, Saline, second; **Erika Boehmer**, Olivet, third; **Patricia Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, fourth; and **Danielle Foster**, Niles, fifth. Winning honorable mentions are (standing, from left) **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell; **Benjamin Canfield**, Clarksville; **Chelsea Ruggles**, Kingston; **Rachael Vaassen**, Ann Arbor; **Justin Ruggles**, Kingston; and **Dee Anne Merriman**, Lowell.



▶ **Danielle Foster** (right), Niles, is crowned the new Michigan Angus queen. Also pictured is Rachael Vaassen, 2004 Michigan Angus queen.

Georgia



▶ The 2005 Georgia Junior Angus Ass'n board of directors includes (seated, from left) **Laura Bramblett**, Elberton, president; **Katie Gazda**, Athens, vice president; **Taylor Gazda**, Athens, secretary; **Katherine Throne**, West Point, treasurer; (standing, from left) **Kathryn Jones**, West Point; **Leah Bradley**, McDonough; **Carrie Waldrop**, Winston; and **Christa Royster**, Dacula.

