



►NJAA officers and directors for the coming year include (seated, from left) **Jennifer Ourso**, Donaldsonville, La., chairman; **Jeana Sankey**, Council Grove, Kan., vice chairman; **Joanna Olson**, Hereford, Texas, communications director; **Kyle Conley**, Clarksdale, Mo., Foundation director; **Tyler Grissom**, Prague, Okla., leadership director; **Jarrett Martin**, Lavaca, Ark., membership director; (standing, from left) **Alicia Kramer**, Farina, Ill.; **Casey Jentz**, Fennimore, Wis.; **Jake Tiedeman**, North Platte, Neb.; **Curtis Bryant**, Monkton, Md.; **Heath McPherson**, Snow Camp, N.C.; and **Renee Thelen**, Saline, Mich.

Juniors Elect Leadership

NJAA names officers, elects six new directors.

by *Shelia Stannard*

Junior Angus members from all corners of the United States gathered July 14 in Kansas City, Mo., to attend the annual meeting of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). The meeting was in conjunction with the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

Voting delegates elected six new directors to the NJAA Board. New officers, who are beginning the second year of their two-year terms, were announced at the awards function on Friday, July 16.

Jennifer Ourso, Donaldsonville, La., will serve as the chairman of the Board. Jeana Sankey, Council Grove, Kan., was elected to the vice chairman position.

Joanna Olson, Hereford, Texas, will serve as the communications director, and Kyle Conley, Clarksdale, Mo., was elected the Foundation director.

Tyler Grissom, Prague, Okla., will fill the leadership director position. Jarrett Martin, Lavaca, Ark., was elected membership director.

Candidates from nine states ran for the six open positions on the Board. Delegates cast their ballots for six candidates after each submitted an application, gave a presentation and completed roundtable interviews. Brief biographies of the newly elected directors follow.

Curtis Bryant, Monkton, Md., attends Oklahoma State University (OSU), where he studies animal science. He has been involved in a variety of Angus experiences, including raising and showing cattle, competing in team sales and quiz bowl competitions, and conducting sire testing with his parents. The 21-year-old son of Dean and Marcia Bryant was a member of the livestock judging team

at Joliet Junior College and will compete in livestock judging at OSU.

Casey Jentz, Fennimore, Wis., is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW-Madison) and is studying animal science. Casey's Angus activities include showing cattle and competing in educational contests like photography, quiz bowl and team sales. His activities at UW-Madison include being a member of the livestock judging team and serving as vice chairman of Saddle & Sirloin. He is the 21-year-old son of Greg and Kim Jentz.

Alicia Kramer, Farina, Ill., will be a junior at the University of Illinois (U of I), Champaign-Urbana, where she will major in agribusiness, farm and financial management. Alicia is involved in numerous activities on campus, including the 4-H House Cooperative Sorority, Hoof N Horn Club and Illini Pork Link. The 20-year-old daughter of Eugene and Marilyn Kramer, she has earned numerous leadership positions in the Illinois Junior Angus Association (IJAA).

Heath McPherson, Snow Camp, N.C., attends Iowa State University (ISU), where he is a junior in animal science. He has been involved in a variety of campus activities, including Block & Bridle, Ag Council and the Beef Team. The 19-year-old son of Steve and Tammy McPherson has been active in junior conferences, shows and events, as well as within his family's operation.

Renee Thelen, Saline, Mich., is a third-generation Angus producer. A junior at Michigan State University (MSU), she is majoring in animal science with a specialization in agribusiness management. She has participated in numerous educational contests, Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences and junior Angus shows. She has mentored many younger junior Angus members by encouraging them to become involved in activities. At college, the 20-year-old daughter of Steve and Nancy Thelen is active in Block & Bridle.

Jake Tiedeman, North Platte, Neb., is an honors student at Colorado State University (CSU), with a dual major in animal science and ag business. The third-generation Angus enthusiast is involved in numerous collegiate activities, including the meats judging team, Agricultural College Governing Council, Block & Bridle and National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA). He is the 21-year-old son of Bob and Becky Tiedeman.

The NJAA Board of Directors develops and organizes leadership programs for the 11,000 members of the NJAA. For more information about junior Angus programs, go to www.njaa.info.

