



# Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

## Giving thanks

Putting aside their differences, their past misunderstandings and past arguments, two very different cultures with contrasting ideals and customs set aside one day in late fall, just after the harvest, to give thanks. Some were thankful for the weather, while others were thankful for a day off. Others were thankful for



Alex Tolbert

the bountiful harvest, and still others were thankful for simply the day, for being alive and well, and for being in good company with friends and family. No matter what they were thankful for, the Pilgrims and the Native Americans came together and sat down beside each other and gave thanks.

Today, we still celebrate Thanksgiving, each in our own way, but do we really think about what it is for? In my family, it is always a tradition to go

to Uncle Harold's house at lunchtime and visit with my mother's side of the family — people who I normally only see on this one day of the year. After we've eaten, it seems that there is always a rush from those in my generation to hurry up and go somewhere else, whether it is to hang out with friends, attend another family gathering or, in my case, to simply go home and take a nap. My mother and her generation, however, always take the time to visit with one another. After the food has settled, someone will sit down behind the piano and the old southern gospel hymnals are passed around. They spend the afternoon in fellowship with one another, lifting their voices and making a joyful noise.

I know that for many of them it's not what they ate for lunch, or who won the football game or who is going to wash the dishes that matters. No, for them it is about taking time out of the "busy life," and visiting with those who are so dear to their hearts. It is about the bond of family and what it means to be a part of a family. I know that they are thankful for their children and even their children's children. For Uncle Harold and Uncle Truitt (my great-uncles), it is about having enough to go around and truly being thankful for the things they have, as their generation grew up in a harder time with so much less. As I reflect on this it makes me wonder, "Do I really know what Thanksgiving is all about?"

As the Thanksgiving season approaches, I encourage everyone to really think about the reason we celebrate. It is not a day that is set aside to eat, watch football games and take naps. It is a day for us to reflect and be thankful. Be thankful for being an American and be thankful for the agriculture industry, but, more importantly, we should be thankful for the little things — the things we take for granted. Waking up in the morning and good health, spending time with those we love and taking the time to let them know how thankful we are. We should be thankful for who we are and what we have, because, as we have seen in recent months, it can be gone in an instant. National Junior Angus members, I am thankful for you, and I challenge each of you to let your family know just how much you appreciate them for what and who they are. Happy Thanksgiving.

— Alex Tolbert, Georgia

## 2005 Royal Six Announced

The American Royal Association announces the "Royal Six," a scholarship program for sophomores and juniors in colleges throughout the Midwest. The Royal Six evolved from the successful Student Ambassador program that awarded more than \$260,000 in scholarships to collegiate students since 1989.

Members of the 2005 Royal Six include Kelly Connett, University of Missouri-Columbia (MU); Jaclyn De Weese, MU; Scott Gerlt, MU; Wravenna Phipps, Oklahoma State University; Erin Sappington, MU; and Sarah Witte, University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The Royal Six scholarship program represents an opportunity for outstanding college students to advocate agriculture, leadership and the American Royal.

Collegians interested in being a member of the Royal Six must:

- Attend a four-year accredited college or university in the 11-state area of Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Illinois, Colorado, Arkansas, Kentucky, South Dakota or Tennessee;
- Pursue a four-year degree; and
- Be an incoming sophomore or junior. Consideration is given to an agriculture-related field of study.

## Submit scholarship applications

The Colvin Scholarship Foundation announces its 2006 scholarships. The application deadline is Dec. 1, 2005. All qualified collegiate juniors and seniors are encouraged to apply. The scholarships will be awarded in January 2006 to students demonstrating a commitment to the beef industry through the pursuit of a meat science, food science, animal science, marketing, business, communications, journalism or other degree related to the beef industry through activities and curriculum.

Applications are available at [www.certifiedangusbeef.com/press/csf/index.php](http://www.certifiedangusbeef.com/press/csf/index.php). For more information contact Vickie Catteau at 1-800-225-2333, Ext. 268, or [vcatteau@certifiedangusbeef.com](mailto:vcatteau@certifiedangusbeef.com).



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