



# Angus Youth Wrangle Up Their Future

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WRANGLIN' UP YOUR FUTURE



AUGUST 3-6, 2006 ★ OKLAHOMA CITY

**A** record-setting 163 Angus youth ages 14-21 gathered at the 2006 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference Aug. 3-6, in Oklahoma City, Okla., to increase their leadership skills, learn more about the ag industry and forge lasting relationships with other members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

Themed "Wranglin' Up Your Future," the conference offered young Angus leaders plenty of opportunities to do just that through activities focused on team building, goal-setting, personal leadership development and current industry topics.

Attendees' comfort zones were immediately shattered when the conference kicked into high gear opening night with rousing rounds of icebreakers. Through games like "balloon bump," "human pretzel" and "baby I love you, won't you give me a smile," Angus youth quickly met new friends and got into a positive spirit, preparing for the exciting challenge of developing their leadership potential during the next few days.

## Motivational moments

Well-known industry leader and Express Ranches owner Bob Funk addressed the crowd, offering his insights on personal success and leadership gained through his entrepreneurial experience in the cattle business and as the founder of Express Personnel Services, a staffing solutions company with 563 international franchises. He encouraged NJAA

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► All showing their NJAA pride in matching LEAD T-shirts, attendees enjoyed lunch hosted by the Grissom family during the day tour.

► The junior Board kept the crowd laughing with a *Grease*-themed skit that proved once again that Angus youth are always winners through the NJAA.



► A record-setting 163 Angus youth stamped to the 2006 LEAD Conference Aug. 3-6 in Oklahoma City, Okla.



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members to not overlook the importance of possessing a strong work ethic and quality value system.

"I'll take a loyal, hard-working employee any day over one that just has intellect," he told attendees. "I can teach you the skills you need, but I can't teach values like loyalty and work ethic. That has to be the root of your character for you to succeed or be a leader."

Motivational speaker Rhett Laubach reminded Angus attendees that "being a leader is not about being in charge of other people. Leaders operate for the benefit of others, not themselves." Through a highly interactive session spanning two days, Laubach guided Angus youth through goal-setting activities and team-building exercises that emphasized values and accountability.

He also introduced the concept of personal leadership intelligence, which he defined as "an individual's understanding of how to positively influence people and situations to create value and growth." As an individual's personal leadership intelligence develops and advances, the individual transitions from a "leader in waiting" to a "leader in gear," he explained. For more information visit [www.whatsmypli.org](http://www.whatsmypli.org).

### Day tour

The conference also took to the road for a day tour. With stops at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum, the historic Oklahoma City stockyards and the Oklahoma RedHawks baseball game, conference attendees got a taste of the Sooner State's local color. The Grissoms, the first family with two generations of NJAA directors, hosted lunch at Blackjack Angus, near Seminole, where tour attendees were treated to a viewing of some great Angus genetics.

The tour concluded on a powerful note with a visit to the Oklahoma City National Memorial, the site of the 1995 truck bombing that killed 168 people in the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building. The six newly elected NJAA Board members held a vespers service under the memorial's "survivor tree," which endured the blasts and stands as a symbol of perseverance.

In addition to speakers and tours, NJAA directors hosted workshops addressing interpersonal development and industry issues. One workshop in a Family Feud-type format challenged participants to Angus industry trivia, while another allowed attendees to

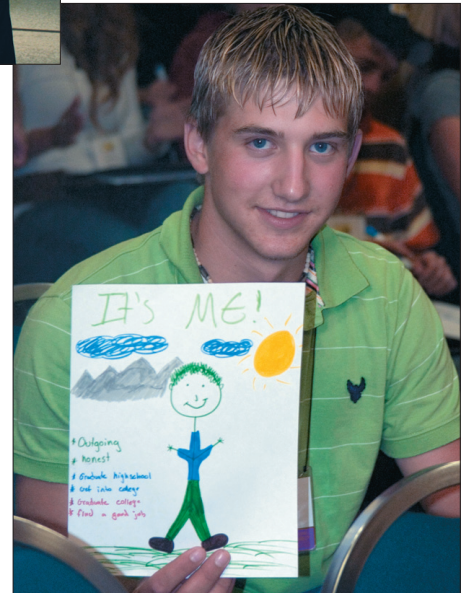
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► **Left:** Jake Tiedeman, chairman of the outgoing NJAA Board, presents Bob Funk (right), owner of Express Ranches, with an Angus Foundation print in appreciation for his years of support of the NJAA. Funk also spoke to the youth group, emphasizing the importance of work ethic and values.



► **Above:** Attendees brainstormed in roundtable discussions to prepare for a mock debate on current industry challenges.



► **Below:** Wes Ruby, Iowa, shows off the self-portrait he created in a goal-setting and self-image workshop presented by the NJAA Board.







► Above: The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum offered one stop on the daylong tour of Oklahoma City.



► Above: A special tour of Express Ranches allowed (from left) Danielle Foster, Michigan; Ashlyn Carter, Indiana; Erika Boehmer, Michigan; and Catharine Knebel, Indiana, to make friends with this Clydesdale.



► Left: Kade Ragsdale, Missouri, looks at a 5-day-old embryo in Express Ranch's embryo transfer lab.



► Above: These stunning "ladies" vied to be named "Miss NJAA" by judge Leonard John, Texas, (bottom left) in a mock pageant that helped attendees discover their inner beauty at the conference's kick-off session Thursday night.



► Above: Motivational and leadership speaker Rhett Laubach challenged Angus youth to picture a party that was being thrown in their honor, then guided them through goal-setting activities based on reasons they each envisioned the party was thrown.

► Left: After a behind-the-scenes tour of the RedHawk's ballpark, LEAD attendees took in a minor league baseball game.



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practice their public speaking skills as they held a mock debate addressing a variety of industry issues. A workshop focused on genetic selection refined attendees' livestock evaluation skills and understanding of expected progeny differences (EPDs), which were then put to the test in a mock auction. Self-image was the focus of the final workshop, in which Angus youth drew self-portraits depicting their personal strengths, and short-term and long-term goals.

LEAD is funded by the Angus Foundation ([www.angusfoundation.org](http://www.angusfoundation.org)), the American Angus Association's not-for-profit organization that supports education, youth and research activities benefiting the Angus breed and the agriculture industry. For more information about LEAD or other Angus youth activities, visit [www.njaa.info](http://www.njaa.info).

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► **Above:** In between workshops and leadership development activities, the conference offered Angus youth a chance to take in some Oklahoma scenery and great Angus genetics at Blackjack Angus, Seminole, Okla.



► **Left:** Angus youth proved they could work out any knot thrown at them through team-building activities such as this round of "human pretzel."

► **Below:** From left, Cliff Ourso, Louisiana; Dana May, Wisconsin; Justin Brosey, Ohio; and Kevin Gleason, Texas, are starting to feel the effects of breaking out of their comfort zone in one of the conference's many interactive sessions.



► **Left:** Junior member Ricka Boehmer, Michigan, two-steps with former Board member Jarrett Martin, Oklahoma, at the dance Saturday night.

► **Below:** Back by popular request, Gleason's original songs and guitar playing again entertained the crowd at this year's LEAD Conference.

