

▣ NEXT GENERATION

National Junior Angus Recognition Program

Taylor Duckett, New Liberty, Iowa; **Megan Green**, Leavenworth, Kan.; **Braden Henricks**, Anadarko, Okla.; **Brooke Langley**, Walton, Ind.; **Stephanie Lastovica**, Salado, Texas; **Andrew Livingston**, Nokomis, Ill.; **Cheyann Lovett**, Bladen, Neb.; **Isaac McFarland**, Keithville, La.; **Cara Smith**, Pleasant Garden, N.C.; **Thomas Smith**, Pleasant Garden, N.C.; and **Carly Watt**, Iva, S.C.; have earned NJAA Bronze and Silver awards, announced Jaclyn Upperman, education and events director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo. **Rachel Reid**, Eaton Rapids, Mich., has earned the NJAA Silver award.

Duckett, the 17-year-old daughter of Todd and Bonnie Duckett, attends Durant High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Iowa Junior Angus Association, which she has served as first vice president, historian and royalty, and Eastern Iowa Junior Angus Association, which she currently serves as vice president and has served as treasurer and director.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Duckett participated in photography, quiz bowl, poster, livestock judging, team fitting and team sales contests and the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off. She served as a voting delegate in 2013 and participated in the mentoring program in 2007. She also participated in the 2013 Raising the Bar conferences.

Duckett has consigned cattle at the Schroeder Fawcett Fall Spectacular and is actively involved with her local 4-H club.

Green, the 18-year-old daughter of Jerry and Tonya Theis and Gene Green, attends Pleasant Ridge High School and is a member of the NJAA, Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA) and Northeast Kansas Junior Angus Association. Megan currently serves as treasurer of the KJAA and has also served as reporter/historian, district director, royalty and ambassador. Green also serves as president of the Northeast Junior Angus Association in Kansas.

She has participated in regional and national shows. At the NJAS, Green participated in photography, quiz bowl and the Cook-Off. She also participated in the 2014 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference and the 2013 Raising the Bar conference.

Henricks, the 19-year-old son of Tim and Kari Henricks, attends Oklahoma State University where he is studying agribusiness

and is a member of the NJAA and the Oklahoma Junior Angus Association, which he has served as first vice president and second vice president.

He has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Henricks participated in the Cook-Off. He also served as a voting delegate in 2013 and participated in the mentoring program in 2014.

Henricks has submitted weight data to the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) and has consigned cattle to the Oklahoma Angus Gathering sale and the Denim and Diamonds sale.

Langley, the 18-year-old daughter of Craig Langley, attends Lewis Cass High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Indiana Junior Angus Association, which she

currently serves as membership chairman and has served as adult representative, secretary and royalty.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests, including the NJAS.

Langley has submitted weight data to AHIR and has consigned cattle to the Carter's Family Sale.

Lastovica, the 20-year-old daughter of Steven and Sandra Lastovica, attends Texas A&M University where she is studying agricultural leadership and development and is a member of the NJAA and the Texas Junior Angus Association, which she has served as reporter, director and royalty.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship

CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

NJAA welcomes extended intern, Jena Lee Wagner

Jena Lee Wagner of Billings, Mont., is well-versed in junior activities through the American Angus Association. She has been involved with the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) for more than 10 years and is bringing that experience back to the Association by serving as the extended intern in the Events & Education Department.

Wagner's role officially began at the 2015 National Western Stock Show (NWSS). She will continue to be involved in planning activities and events until mid-August. A former National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) member, Wagner says she looks forward to traveling and getting to know Angus members nationwide.

"It's such a tremendous opportunity to have an internship like this that involves traveling the country," Wagner says. "I would never get to see these places on my own, and what's even better is that I get to watch the NJAA members enjoy all these experiences, as well. Seeing them excited about Angus cattle and new friends is really the best part."

During her eight-month internship, Wagner will assist with planning Association-sponsored shows and conferences, attend several events throughout the country, and play a key role in preparations for the 2015 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla.

A top priority during her first weeks on the job is planning for upcoming Raising the Bar conferences at the University of Illinois and the University of Georgia. Visit www.njaa.info for complete details.

"Raising the Bar conferences give youth a rare opportunity to tour a college town, the campus and have one-on-one time with professors to find out what their programs are all about," Wagner says. "It's an experience a lot of people may not have when visiting universities."

Wagner attends Montana State University where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in communications, with a minor in graphic design and marketing. She has an interest in event planning and says she looks forward to learning more about the behind-the-scenes details that go into making the NJAA leadership experiences possible.

"Because of her understanding and enthusiasm for the National Junior Angus Association and its activities, we are fortunate to have Jena on board," says Jaclyn Upperman, director of events and education. "She has a keen eye for detail, and will help us continue to present industry-leading programs for our youth and adult members."

Together with her sister, Jordan, the Wagners operate JL Farms in Billings, Mont., where they manage a string of Angus show cattle. Prior to her internship with the Association, Jena has served as a sales representative for the Midland Bull Test Sale, has worked for the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE), and interned with Genex Hawkeye West and the Montana Angus Association.

At Montana State University, Wagner is active in the Collegiate Stockgrowers Club, the Women's Cattle Club, Sigma Alpha and Young Farmers and Ranchers.

"I truly believe the American Angus Association and the National Junior Angus Association are giving youth members so many opportunities to be successful and develop leadership skills," Wagner says. "I am so pleased to be able to be a part of that."