



Newsmakers

► Items of interest **about** and **for** members of our Angus family. *Compiled by Linda Robbins.*

IN THE NEWS

Maguire Blair, Drake, Sask., Canada, has earned the 2016 Junior Angus Stockman Award from the Canadian Angus Foundation.

In addition to involvement with Blair's West Land & Cattle, his family's operation near Drake, Blair has developed his own herd of purebred Angus cattle. He makes all the breeding decisions for his females, and has been slowly expanding his herd through female purchases and embryo transfer. Blair's future plans include attending Lakeland College in Vermilion, majoring in animal science and crop technology.

Blair has been very active through 4-H and junior programs and attends 10-12 shows each year across western Canada. He has earned many awards for his skills in grooming and showmanship and has also exhibited high-quality breeding stock. This past year, Blair's cow Bar-E-L Erica 74A was the most dominant show female in Canada, winning championships at Showdown, Lloydminster, Stockade National Angus Show, Brandon Ag Expo, Farmfair and Agribition. Erica was named Canadian Angus Gold Show Female of the Year and also won the international "Show Female of the Year" from *AngusBreeder.net*.

The Junior Angus Stockman of the Year Award is a recent initiative of the Canadian Angus Foundation, introduced last year to recognize those outstanding young cattlemen who are constantly growing their stockmanship capability by actively working with their Angus cattle.

Rae-Leigh Pederzoli, Medicine Hat, Alta., Canada, and Nicky Lansink, Three Hills, Alta., were selected as winners of the \$10,000 Keith Gilmore Foundation (KGF) Prize for Beef Cattle Innovation. The KGF Prize is awarded to students who are recognized for academic excellence; leadership; and commitment to pursue a career to improve, support and promote the beef cattle industry.

The KGF Prize and Keith Gilmore Foundation are Canadian Hereford Association initiatives; however, the award seeks to acknowledge beef industry research and leadership in the fields of agriculture,

veterinary medicine and ag journalism rather than specific breed projects. The Canadian Angus Association (CAA) is proud to claim Rae-Leigh Pederzoli as a member of Canada's Angus fraternity. She is a commercial cattle producer with an Angus-influenced herd and the granddaughter of Aldo Pederzoli, who received a 50 Year Heritage Award from CAA in 2015. Pederzoli is also a graduate of the Cattlemen's Young Leaders program and was mentored by CAA Director of Breed Development Kajal Devani.

Pederzoli is completing a master's degree at the University of Saskatchewan and will be attending the University of Calgary this fall pursuing a doctorate in veterinary medicine. She is an active member of the Canadian Young Leaders program and is a member of the Young Cattlemen's Council. She has attended and represented the Canadian beef industry at numerous conferences in Canada and the United States. Her long-term goal is to practice and perform research in the food animal

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56

Continuing growth, Angus hires HR director

The American Angus Association has served the nation's quality-minded cattle producers for more than 130 years, and managing day-to-day business requires a talented group of professionals across a number of disciplines. Ladena Keuhn, a native of north central Missouri, joined the Angus team Aug. 11 to lead the member-driven organization's human resource programs and initiatives.

Keuhn brings nearly 20 years of experience in human resources management, training and development, employee relations, recruitment, corporate planning, and benefits management. As the Association's first director of human resources, Keuhn is a key member of the executive team, and will develop programs and policy to align with the organization's strategic business plan.

"With Ladena's proven experience in human resources management, she provides a great amount of leadership to our team of 100-plus employees in Saint Joseph, Mo.," says Allen Moczygemba, American Angus Association CEO. "She will help us maintain the quality reputation we've established over the years for exceptional member service and performance."

Most recently, Keuhn served as a vice president with Individual Assurance Co., which provides a full range of insurance products. She spent more than a decade leading the company's human resources and providing an efficient, process-driven environment for employees and customers. Keuhn also has experience in strategic planning and operations management, and will be instrumental in future planning for the Association.

"I am honored to be a part of the prestigious American Angus Association, and I am committed to working with Angus leadership to continue building a strong culture within the organization," Keuhn says. "I am looking forward to implementing programs to positively impact our employees and our membership."

As the American Angus Association's director of human resources, Keuhn will manage and recommend practices that balance employee welfare in conjunction with the organization's mission statement and company culture. She also provides direction for the Association and its three Saint Joseph, Mo.-based entities — Angus Media, Angus Genetics Inc. and the Angus Foundation. At the center of the organization's vision are more than 25,000 members nationwide who rely on the Angus breed's unrivaled performance database, outreach and education, and marketing services.

Keuhn earned a master's degree in business administration and human resources from the University of Missouri—Kansas City, and holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Missouri—Columbia. She is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) and the Greater Kansas City SHRM chapter.

Keuhn resides with her husband, Jerry, in Platte City, Mo., along with their 12-year-old son, Blaine.

— by Jena McReil, Angus Media



Ladena Keuhn