

Auxiliary Announces

Auxiliary awards scholarships to five girls, five boys in Grand Island, Neb.

by *Linda Robbins*, assistant editor

The American Angus Auxiliary and its supporters recognized 10 qualifying junior Angus members for their achievements when they announced the winners of \$15,500 in scholarships during the 2016 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Grand Island, Neb.

The Auxiliary awards scholarships annually to five qualifying young men and five qualifying young women, chosen this year from among 18 applicants representing 15 states. To qualify, applicants must be National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members and graduating high school seniors nominated by their state or regional associations.

In 1967 the American Angus Association asked the Auxiliary for help in selecting a National Angus Queen. At the Auxiliary's annual meeting that year, the membership voted to package the first-place scholarship winner and the National Angus Queen, making Sharon (Harrold) Sommers of Indiana the first queen.

In 1973 the Auxiliary membership voted to change the name, and Kathy Votaw of Nebraska became the first young woman to be known as Miss American Angus.

Until 1980, Miss American Angus was always the first-place girl's scholarship winner. In consideration that some of the scholarship winners would prefer not to compete, in 1980 the selection of Miss American Angus became a contest among the female scholarship applicants.

This year Keegan Cassady, Normal, Ill.; Hayley DeHaan, McMinnville, Ore.; Sara Hatlewick, Jamestown, N.D.; Reba Colin, Butler, Mo.; and Hannah Steph, Tatum, Texas, have chosen to compete for the title during the Angus Convention in November.

Scholarship applications are due in May, and winners are announced during the NJAS Awards Ceremony. The Auxiliary has awarded these scholarships for more than 50 years.

The recipients for 2016 follow.

Keegan Cassady

The winner of the first-place girl's Auxiliary scholarship, in the amount of \$1,750 is Keegan Cassady, Normal, Ill.

The daughter of Erica Johnson and Jerry Cassady has been involved in the livestock industry her entire life. She credits her parents and family friends Gary and Jeff Dameron for allowing her to raise and show cattle. She has spent her summers at Dameron Angus preparing her heifers for their show career.



Keegan Cassady
first place

"Because of my hands-on experience, I learned what it takes to have a successful cattle operation," Keegan says. "I learned about animal health, behavior and care. Because of

my family and friends, I have been fortunate enough to develop a love and knowledge for the livestock industry even though I did not grow up on the farm."

Keegan has been successful in the showing, leading the supreme champion heifer at the 2012 All-American Breeders' Futurity and the grand champion heifer at the Illinois Angus Preview Show. She was also named the second-place junior showman at the Illinois Angus Preview in the same year.

"One of my weaknesses is that I am a perfectionist," Keegan says. "This may sound like a strength, and in some situations it is, but there are times when no matter how carefully planned everything is, something goes wrong. Being involved in the Illinois Junior Angus Association (IJAA) and a member of Illinois Angus Royalty has taught me to adjust, solve the problem, and learn from the mistake, not dwell on it. I have learned that it is important to learn to adapt, and if things do not go completely perfect, it is okay."

She has served as a director, princess, ebonette, queen and secretary for the IJAA, and received the outstanding junior award in 2016. Active in the Normal FFA and the Hudson Ag 4-H club, Keegan is currently serving as president of both organizations.

At the NJAS this year, she received

one of the Foundation Angus/Talon undergraduate scholarships, took second in the Prepared Public Speaking contest in the senior division and second in the Career Development contest. Her teams took second place in Team Sales and in the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off. She has participated in the mentoring program for the last four years and Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences for the past three years.

Keegan plans to attend Oklahoma State University this fall with a double major in agricultural communications and animal science. After graduation, she says no matter where she lives or works, she knows she will always advocate for the beef industry.

"My whole life, I have known where my food comes from and how it was produced, but this is not the case for the general public," Keegan says. "Because of where I live, I realized that my passion is to bridge the gap between the producer and consumer. My goal is to get a job with an organization such as the Farm Bureau or the National Cattlemen's Beef Association where I can educate consumers about where their food comes from."

Madison Styles

"I am a fourth-generation Angus breeder, and I could not be more proud to follow in my family's footsteps," says Madison Styles. "The Angus breed has taught me so much about the importance of family, and I am forever grateful for that." Madison is the second-place scholarship winner and received \$1,650.

The daughter of Chris and Erica Styles of Brentford, S.D., says she is honored to have been elected as a voting delegate for the South Dakota Junior Angus Association (SDJAA) to choose the National Junior Angus Board of Directors for the past five years, including this year in Grand Island, Neb.

"Running for the board is not a popularity contest," Madison says. "Running for the board is about finding great leaders and role models who can step up to the plate, work as a team, strive to better and progress the

Scholarship Winners

Angus breed and association, and aim to give back to the breed that has given so much to them."

Madison has served the SDJAA as a director and vice president and performed the National Anthem at the NJAS in 2010, 2013 and 2015. Successful in the showing, she led the bull calf champion and heifer calf champion at the 2015 South Dakota Fair Junior Show and



Madison Styles
second place

had the winter bull calf champion at the National Western Stock Show in 2015.

She was also active in the Prairie Lassies and Clippers 4-H and the Spink County 4-H clubs. Madison played varsity volleyball and basketball all four years of high school and received volleyball and basketball letters, along with an All-State Academic Volleyball award.

Madison believes the AngusSource® program is one of the greatest tools and member benefits out of the many offered by the American Angus Association. Because she wants to have as much information as possible on the genetic history of any prospective cattle for her herd, Madison says she and other breeders can use a smartphone to look up any piece of information needed in an instant, and the more information that is out there, the more of a selling point it makes for producers to use it.

Madison plans to attend South Dakota State University with the goal of receiving a doctoral degree in pharmacy. She knows it will be hard work, but she is dedicated, determined and ready for the challenge. Madison says she tries to be a positive role model for the younger junior members, in particular her sister who is five years younger, and wants to continue to inspire and motivate Angus juniors for many years to come.

"After receiving my degree, I want to live and work in a rural area where I can continue to raise Angus cattle and be actively involved with the Angus breed," Madison says. "I want to expand my herd, my knowledge and my

marketing abilities within the industry and continue to promote the Angus breed in every possible way I can. Angus cattle have always been my passion, and I never want to give up that passion."

LeAnn Harward

LeAnn Harward, Richfield, N.C., is the third-place scholarship recipient and received \$1,550.

She is the daughter of Marcus and Patty Harward and was raised on a fifth-generation cattle farm.

"Before being involved with the National Junior Angus Association, I was shy and timid when it came to speaking and interacting with people," LeAnn says. "I especially had a hard time interacting with people who were much older than I was. Having to talk at meetings, talk to other junior



LeAnn Harward
third place

members, interact with judges, collaborate on committees and other communication necessities has made me more confident when speaking in front of people and expressing my ideas."

LeAnn has served the North Carolina Junior Angus Association as a reporter, secretary, voting delegate and vice president. She has also been North Carolina royalty as a princess in 2012 and served as the North Carolina Angus Queen for 2013-2014.

Successful in the showing and in showmanship at the local, state and national level, LeAnn was the 2015 reserve champion senior showman for the Stanly County Livestock Show and the North Carolina Angus Association State Show.

In 2009, LeAnn dislocated her knee while helping her family work cows. For the next six weeks, she wore a leg immobilizer and was not supposed to do any type of physical activity, including showing cattle. She had already entered a show that was just a couple of weeks after the accident, and she decided she was going to still participate.

She didn't anticipate how difficult it would be to walk with a straight leg through

shavings while trying to lead a heifer. She ended up having to have knee surgery, but the determination she had then is what kept her going.

"This is what I like to share with other Angus juniors: showing will have many obstacles that a person will need to overcome, such as halter-breaking a calf or deciding to show a calf again that knocked you down," LeAnn asserts. "In life, there are obstacles that people struggle with, but having the determination to keep going is key."

LeAnn was a four-term class president at Gray Stone Day School, a member of the National Honor Society from 2014 to 2016, and regularly volunteers for the North Carolina Livestock Shows for Exhibitors with Special Needs and, in 2015, for the Cabarrus County Special Olympics.

She plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and major in pre-pharmacy with the intention of entering pharmacy school and studying pharmaceutical sciences.

"My goals for this career are to be part of a research team that is involved in the creation and development of new drugs," LeAnn says. "My experience with being part of the National Junior Angus Association would allow me to be prepared for everything that I would need to do for that job. It has taught me to speak up, work in a group, take initiative to get things accomplished, and many other critical life skills."

Morgan Fruge

"Showing cattle has helped me develop a better sense of sportsmanship," says Morgan Fruge, Jennings, La. "I started showing in sixth grade. My first calf, Cash, was beautiful and calm and everything a first-time showman could wish for. That first year I won district and parish. I was ecstatic because this was success I had never gained with any sport.

"My sister showed right alongside me, and I watched her be crushed, show after show, because her baby sister was beating her in the showing. She was always kind and respectful to the winners, and I didn't understand why she bothered until I made it to the state show. Cash placed last in her class. As I looked around in disappointment, I realized in that moment that showing was so much more than winning.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 160

Auxiliary Announces Scholarship Winners CONTINUED FROM PAGE 159

"As the 2015 Louisiana Junior Angus Association (LJAA) Queen, I have handed out ribbons and plaques, and have always congratulated the first-place down to



Morgan Fruge
fourth place

the last-place exhibitor because I am aware of the fact that even the last-place exhibitor put forth as much effort and time as anyone else. It has always been my goal to show all members of the LJAA that they are important to our association and that, even if they didn't win ribbons or plaques, they are still winners just by going out and doing the best they could. I hope this is how I will be remembered."

Morgan, the daughter of Lawrence and Trina Fruge, is the fourth-place scholarship winner and received \$1,450. In addition to her success in the showing, Morgan attended the LEAD conference in 2014 and competed in the NJAA photography and team-fitting contests at the NJAS.

Morgan has been active in 4-H and FFA, serving as a national convention delegate for FFA in 2015. She volunteers for a variety of organizations in her community, and has served as state secretary and reporter for the Louisiana Teenage Librarian's Association, as a state representative for Louisiana Girl's State and as a youth retreat director for Saint Lawrence Catholic Church.

She will attend McNeese State University in the fall and plans to receive a bachelor's degree in animal science and then plans to apply to veterinary school. While in college, Morgan will receive her artificial insemination (AI) license and hopes to work with veterinarians in the area.

"After graduation I would like to open my own clinic in the country," Morgan says. "I plan to specialize in large animals, specifically bovine."

Morgan hopes to marry and start a family once she has established her career, and raise her children to know where their food comes from and how to handle animals without getting hurt or being fearful. She wants to teach them all the responsibilities and how much time is required to take care of the animals and keep a healthy herd.

"Family is a huge aspect of my life and I

want to keep the family tradition of showing Angus cattle alive," Morgan says.

Hannah Steph

Hannah Steph, Tatum, Texas, is the fifth-place scholarship winner and received \$1,350. The daughter of Chris and Melissa Steph says she has chosen leadership roles that allow her to serve others on food or decorations committees for the Texas Junior Angus Association (TJAA) and by being involved with activities that encourage new or shy members to participate.

"I was once that new, timid member at my first NJAS and did not know what to expect



Hannah Steph
fifth place

or what was available to me," Hannah says. "I had a wonderful experience with my mentor, Jacy Alsup. She helped me learn about my new family, the Junior Angus Association. I have since stepped into those same mentoring

'boots' and modeled the way for other first-timers within our state and the national organization."

Hannah has been active in the TJAA as a reporter and secretary and has attended LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences. She was active in the Tatum 4-H club in Rusk County and the Beckville FFA chapter, receiving a Lone Star Degree and a Heifer Showmanship Award. Successful in the showing, Hannah led the grand champion Angus heifer at the 2014 State Fair of Texas and took first place at the 2015 Houston Rodeo & Livestock Show.

Hannah has had registered-Angus cattle since she was 8 years old. With her father's help, she has successfully used AI and expected progeny differences (EPDs) as tools to grow her herd. She says she believes performance can come with a great phenotype and functionality.

"In each of the past three years I have participated in the sales talk competition at our Texas State Junior Angus Show, making the cut for our NJAS team each of those years," Hannah says. "The sales talk has been a challenge for me, given my reserved nature. Through participation in this event, I have improved my ability to speak in front of others and learned more about marketing my cattle to meet the needs of the customer."

She was a member of the track and cross-country teams at Beckville Junior/Senior High School and was a volunteer for the community cleanup day, prom committee, school dance committee and served her classmates as an office aid and tutor.

Hannah plans to attend Kilgore Junior College and Texas Tech. Her career goal is to attend a culinary arts program to become a chef and to one day open her own restaurant. She says she has enjoyed the *Angus Journal* stories about chefs like Ryan Fuller and Adam Siegfried.

"As a chef I can continue to serve others and be a positive influence no matter my location, and as a chef or restaurant owner, there are many ways I can promote the Angus breed and the quality product we produce," Hannah says. "Customers today, more than ever before, want to know where their food originates, how it was fed and how it was raised. The challenges are to discover how we can work a high-quality and preferred protein into more diets and increase the variety that will keep customers returning."

Craig James "C.J." Stevenson

The first-place boy's scholarship was awarded to C.J. Stevenson, Hobson, Mont. The son of Darrell and Sara Stevenson received \$1,750 and plans to attend Montana



Craig James
"C.J." Stevenson
first place

State University (MSU) to pursue a degree in agricultural engineering. After graduating from MSU, C.J. plans to work internationally.

"I believe the biggest challenge for our next generation will be providing adequate food and water to our world's ever-increasing population," C.J. says. "My father has started the first Russian/American-owned ranch in Russia, and I plan to advance this venture into the next generation. I believe today's Angus breeders need to broaden their mind-set and think bigger."

C.J. graduated first in his class at Moore High School and was team captain for the varsity football and basketball teams from 2013 to 2015. He achieved a top-10 ranking at the state track-and-field javelin competition in 2015. He was named to the

1st Team All-Conference and All-District basketball team in 2016, and served as class president from 2015 to 2016 and student body president from 2014 to 2015.

Active in the showing at county, state and regional levels, C.J. showed the grand champion Angus bull, the champion yearling bull and the grand champion cow-calf pair at the Central Montana Fair in 2013. He led the grand champion bull calf at the Judith Basin Fair in 2015. He received top honors in showmanship at the Judith Basin Fair and the Montana Winter Fair.

"Without a doubt, the single greatest lesson I have learned from my involvement in the Angus Association is time management," C.J. says. "As a student athlete my schedule is constantly full. Through the last four years I have learned to balance my time between school, athletics and clubs. Moreover, not only have I learned to set priorities, I have also developed an enduring work ethic. I have learned to balance the struggles of life and how to sacrifice time spent in one area for the benefit of another."

C.J. purchased his first heifer from his grandfather for \$1,200. From that beginning he has expanded his herd to 31 producing mother cows. As his herd has grown and he has matured, C.J. says he has played a more active role in the management of his herd, and has taken more responsibility for his cattle. He says by competing in events like livestock judging in NJAA, the Montana Junior Angus Association (MJAA), FFA and 4-H he has learned what type and kind of cattle he wants in his own herd.

"If there was one characteristic my friends and family would use to describe me, it would be competitive," C.J. says. "I like to win, and when I don't, it's not always pretty. It's a tough pill to swallow in the moment, but, looking back now, I am just as grateful for all of my losses as I am for my wins. I just have to remind myself of the big picture, and that is that it's not about winning and losing; it's about working hard every day and not being afraid to thrive on a new challenge."

Kollin Johnson

"Imagine a young, energetic Angus junior who was passionate about the cattle he exhibited at his first-ever NJAA event," Kollin Johnson, Quincy, Mich., says. "The only barrier to getting the most out of my experience was that I was reserved, shy and did not want to move outside of my comfort zone. Danielle Foster, the Michigan Junior Angus Association president at the time,

pulled me aside to give me some advice. She said that NJAA events are what you make of them. Later that day, she also encouraged me to attend the junior social. Being the shy kid I was, I resisted, but once I was there, I had the time of my life."



Kollin Johnson
second place

winner of \$1,650, says he has devoted the largest portion of his energy and influence toward the membership of the Michigan Junior Angus Association (MJAA). The son of Kevin and Heidi Johnson has served the MJAA as a director, on numerous committees and as the 2016 vice president.

At Quincy High School, Kollin served as the class of 2016 treasurer and as class vice president during the 2015-2016 school year. He played varsity football from 2013-2016, was the captain of the team in 2015 and was named an All-Conference defensive end and to the All-Conference wrestling team.

In addition to the MJAA, Kollin has been active in the Branch Area Careers Center (BACC) FFA, serving as junior president and chapter officer. He served as president of the Tri-Town 4-H Club, was the state winner of the Michigan 4-H Meats Judging Contest in 2014, and was a member of the state winning team in 2015. Kollin also served as president of the Branch County Junior Livestock Association for the 2015-2016 year.

"Being involved in the exhibition of cattle, I have acquired skills like clipping and fitting that have turned out to be extremely useful," Kollin states. "Once I have completed two years at Lake Land College, I plan to transfer to Iowa State University to study animal science and ag business. I absolutely love helping and interacting with people, so if I could combine livestock, traveling and interacting with others into one profession, I would feel accomplished. I see myself fitting into the animal nutrition/sales industry."

Kollin showed the grand champion Angus steer at the 2016 Michigan AGR Beef Preview Show, the reserve champion Angus steer at the 2015 Michigan Winter Beef Classic, and has won showmanship at the county, state and regional levels. He says his largest sense of pride comes from the fact that he raises all of the steers he exhibits.

Kollin, the second-place scholarship

As for his future plans, Kollin would like to be an active member of both the state and national Angus associations, and to be involved in organizations like Farm Bureau.

"I just want to look out over the spread with my family and see the beef industry headed in a positive direction with good Angus cattle on the horizon," Kollin concludes.

Wesly Johnson

The third-place \$1,550 scholarship winner is Wesly Johnson, Pipestone, Minn. The



Wesly Johnson
third place

son of Glen and Sherri Johnson is a member of the Minnesota Junior Angus Association and has served as treasurer, vice president and president.

Successful in the showing at every level, Wesly exhibited the supreme

champion Angus bull at the Minnesota State Fair in 2015 and the supreme champion owned heifer at the Minnesota State Regional Show from 2013-2015.

At the 2013 NJAS Wesly was a member of the third-place Quiz Bowl team, was the 4th high individual in the judging contest in 2015 and a member of the 3rd overall team in the fitting contest.

"I am a firm believer that junior nationals is something everyone needs to experience at least once," Wesley says. "Once you experience this event, you will look forward to the next year as the sky is the limit when it comes to opportunities for young people to meet industry professionals and make connections from coast to coast."

Wesly was a member of the Pipestone Area Schools basketball, golf and baseball teams. He served the Pipestone FFA as parliamentarian and vice president, the Prairie Grangers 4-H Club as treasurer in 2015, and is currently a member of the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association and the Pipestone County Cattlemen's Association.

Wesly plans to attend South Dakota State University to pursue a degree in ag business. His plan is to return home and eventually take over the family operation, Chestnut Angus Farm.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 162

Auxiliary Announces Scholarship Winners CONTINUED FROM PAGE 161

"I have been fortunate to have grown up in my family's Angus operation," Wesley says. "I have learned firsthand what it takes to run a successful operation and have also shared my input as to different ways

in which we can move our business forward.

"With attending the National Western Stock Show and hosting our annual bull sale, there [are] a lot of hands needed

on preparation to make these events go smoothly," Wesley adds. "Marketing is a key component to spreading the word about your operation. In my generation, the use of technology and social media is through the roof. By utilizing applications such as Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram and more, I can effectively market our operation and give followers an inside look as to what we do throughout our operation."

Wesley says that when he first became a junior member, he was very quiet and unsure of himself and unsure of what to say. He says through going to different shows and meeting people, he gained more confidence in himself and was more willing to share his thoughts.

"Talking with others who have the same interests I do gives me more confidence," Wesley says. "I owe it to the Junior Angus Association for allowing me to meet different people and have experiences that other organizations aren't capable of providing. I want to give back as much as possible to become an influential member of the Angus community."

Benjamin Marsh

"I was a very shy kid," Benjamin Marsh, Huntley, Ill., says. "As I grew older, my dad started taking me around with him to more Angus shows and helping me meet new people. I stayed shy and never made many friends. One of the biggest regrets I had with my life was staying timid for so long.

"At my first national show my parents signed me up for the mentoring program. I don't know what was different, but something changed. Meeting people from so many different states was interesting to me, and I liked how people were unique from all parts of the country. This helped me grow in other ways, and I began to make more friends at shows and at my school. There are times when I notice people who are shy and quiet like I was. I encourage individuals to talk to someone that is outgoing so they can grow as I did. I love my life the way it is today, and I have the Angus Association to thank for that."

Benjamin has served as director and treasurer of the Illinois Junior Angus Association and as show secretary, vice president and president of the Northern Illinois Junior Angus Association. He has served the Cross County Farmer 4-H club as recreation director and is the current secretary. He is a member of the Illinois Junior Beef Association and the American Lowline Association.

AUXILIARY SCHOLARSHIPS



► From left, Shally Rogen, American Angus Auxiliary president, presents Auxiliary scholarships to Keegan Cassidy, Madison Styles, LeAnn Harward, Morgan Fruge and Hannah Steph.



► From left, Rogen presents Auxiliary scholarships to Dawson Dal Porto, Benjamin Marsh, Kolin Johnson and Wesley Johnson. Not pictured is C.J. Stevenson.



► From left, Rogen introduces Miss American Angus contestants Keegan Cassidy, Reba Colin, Sara Hatlewick, Hayley DeHaan and Hannah Steph. Also pictured presenting is Julie Mumin, Auxiliary president-elect.

Successful in the showing, Benjamin led the supreme champion heifer at the McHenry County 4-H Show in 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013 and 2014, the reserve grand champion Angus heifer at the Wisconsin State Fair and has placed first or second in showmanship at those shows, as well.



Benjamin Marsh
fourth place

Living in the suburbs of Chicago, Benjamin says his family farm is surrounded by a largely nonagricultural population. He says he hears on a daily basis how little the general public knows about cattle and the beef business from the questions he is asked. Many do not know there is a difference between beef and dairy cattle. Benjamin would like to see the Angus Association provide information to the public about how an Angus cow, bull or steer gets to their dinner table.

"People often do not realize that there is more to the beef industry than just the steak they eat," Benjamin says. "There is more to it than that; it is a business. It amazes me how uninformed some people are about beef, and it is great to explain to them that beef is more than just a steak."

While Benjamin wants to continue his career in agriculture, he has decided to major in sports management, as he believes this career will give him a better opportunity to do both.

"This major will assist me in learning more things about promoting and selling an organization or an event," Benjamin says. "I will learn valuable business skills that will assist me in promoting and supporting the Angus and beef industries as a whole."

Benjamin is the son of James and Julie Marsh.

Dawson Dal Porto

Dawson Dal Porto, Brentwood, Calif., is the fifth-place scholarship winner and received \$1,350.

Successful in the showing at every level, Dawson led the grand champion owned female at the 2015 NJAS, the grand champion bred-and-owned female and the grand champion owned female at the 2013 California Junior Field Day, and the grand champion owned female at the 2014 Western Regional.

Dawson is an active member of the California Junior Angus Association (CJAA), serving as secretary and current vice president. He has participated in the mentoring program, quiz bowl, judging contest and the golf tournament at the NJAS, as well as serving as a voting delegate for California.

Dawson has a desire to serve the Angus industry and its members as his mother and father have. He plans to seek a position on the junior Angus board so he can give back to the organization that has given him so much.

"The 'green coats' are always at attention and ready to help someone, from tailing your heifer inside the showing or offering to help study for a final you have the week after the show," Dawson explains. "Even though they are going to school too, they always make time for the association they love. From outstanding public speaking to lifelong friends from all across the country and huge amounts of livestock evaluation skills, the NJAA has really helped me get involved in as many opportunities as I can."

In addition to Angus organizations, Dawson is a member of Knightsen 4-H, the



Dawson Dal Porto
fifth place

Brentwood FFA and the Solano Alameda Section FFA, which he has served as secretary and vice president.

The son of David and Jeanene Dal Porto says you must be passionate to be a part of any livestock industry. He has participated in LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences, and says the shows, the contests at the NJAS and the number of conferences he attended has helped him overcome his difficulty with public speaking, and not just in front of large crowds.

"It used to kill me to go up to just one individual person and attempt to have a conversation with them," Dawson explains. "The many events and conferences allowed me to get outside my comfort zone and meet tons of new people who all have the same interests as I do."

Dawson plans to attend Hutchinson Junior College in the fall, where he will be a member of the livestock judging team. After completing two years of study at Hutchinson, he hopes to transfer to either Texas A&M University or Kansas State University, where he will major in ag business with a minor in ag communications.

"I see myself doing something within the agriculture pharmaceuticals industry, so I can help other producers bring out the best in their herds," Dawson says. "I want to have my own Angus herd and be able to contribute to the industry that has had such a large impact on my family's way of life."

