

# The Path Less Traveled

Tennessee junior honored as Outstanding Leader at 2013 National Junior Angus Show.

by Laurin Spraberry, American Angus Association

Passion, hard work and dedication are just a few skills National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members learn throughout their experiences with the NJAA. From the early mornings working cattle to practicing for friendly competitions, Angus youth develop skills that mold them into leaders.

An example of this is the 2013 Outstanding Leader recipient Hannah Wright of Spring City, Tenn. Wright was recognized for her leadership service during the closing ceremonies of the 2013 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Kansas City, Mo.

"I'm very humbled and honored to receive this award," says Wright, who is studying animal science at the University of Tennessee (UT), Knoxville. "This was my last year at nationals, and it's a great way to end my junior career."

Each year, an NJAA member is recognized for their contributions to Angus organizations, personal Angus accomplishments, and community involvement and achievements. The



► **Hannah Wright** (left), Spring City, Tenn., receives the NJAA Outstanding Leadership Award from Kelli Retallick, 2012-2013 NJAA leadership director.

Outstanding Leadership Award was established in 1994 in memory of Barbara Smalstig and her support of the NJAA.

An active member of the NJAA, Wright has held leadership roles on the state and national level. She has served as the state secretary, regional vice president, princess, a

multiple-time voting delegate at the NJAS, and served two consecutive terms as president of the Tennessee Junior Angus Association (TJAA).

"The National Junior Angus Association and Angus cattle have greatly impacted my life," Wright says. "Everything that showing has taught me has made me feel prepared to enter the workforce."

At UT, Wright serves in many different leadership roles both in and outside the realm of agriculture. She is involved in the UT College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources Ambassadors Program, UT Student Alumni Associates, Block and Bridle Club, the UT Beef Cattle Show Team and Collegiate 4-H; and she serves as a student assistant in the state 4-H Youth Development Office.

"Hannah is a young lady who is a serious student with a congenial personality," says Mary Holtman-Reed, director of alumni programs at the UT-Knoxville. "She demonstrates high standards of personal conduct and is a wonderful role model for all students."

Outside of school and the university, Wright is active at her church, St. Clair Baptist, where she volunteers her time by teaching classes, working with the church nursery and aiding the preschool and toddler classes on Sundays. She is also involved in Rhea County United Way, serving as the campaign spokesperson in 2010. Wright is the youngest individual in Rhea County history to assume this role.

"Each of these roles has helped mold me into the multifaceted leader I am today, and given me the opportunity to influence and help those around me," Wright says. "These roles have allowed me to glean an understanding of what it means to be a true leader."

This fall, Wright will be a senior and continue pursuing her undergraduate degree. Upon graduation, she hopes to attend law school.



**Editor's Note:** Laurin Spraberry is the communications and public relations intern for the American Angus Association.