

# Auxiliary Announces

Ten NJAA members receive scholarship honors for their achievements.

by *Raney Lovorn, editorial intern*

The American Angus Auxiliary and its supporters set 10 qualifying junior Angus members on the path to maximizing their potential when they announced the winners of \$14,700 in scholarships during the 2015 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla., July 17.

The Auxiliary awards scholarships annually to leading young men and women in the Angus breed. To qualify for one of the scholarships, applicants must be National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members and graduating high school seniors nominated by their state or regional associations.

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 2015 follow.

## Cody Boden

Winner of the \$1,700 first-place boys' scholarship is Cody Boden, son of Michael and Ruth Boden, Clear Brook, Va. Cody is active in both the Northern Virginia



**Cody Boden**  
first place

Junior Angus Association and the Virginia Junior Angus Association (VJAA), most recently serving as the VJAA reporter. He has been very involved in member contests, competing in

events like extemporaneous speaking, team sales, the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off and livestock judging.

"As a member of the junior Angus association, I have been encouraged to step out of my comfort zone by advisors, other members, and the 'Green Coats,'" Cody says. "There is so much a member can do and learn; I want younger members to have the same great experiences I have had."

An active 4-H and FFA member, Cody judged and coached award-winning livestock judging teams on an international level.

His success took him all the way to Ireland, England and Scotland, where he was first-place individual in Scotland's Royal Highland Livestock Show. Cody strives to use his judging knowledge and new technology to become a better Angus breeder.

"Learning and utilizing new management practices and collecting data on the calves I raise is helping me to select for both show-quality projects, as well as ones that will hang up a highly marbled yet heavy-muscle carcass," Cody says.

Cody will attend Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, Kan., this fall where he will be a member of the livestock evaluation team and work toward an associate's degree in animal science. He plans to select his major after he transfers to a four-year university to complete his bachelor's degree and later earn a master's degree in beef reproduction or meat science.

"Livestock production, specifically beef cattle, brings me great joy," Cody says. "For some it seems like too much work, but to me it's how you continue to improve and make a difference."

## Isaac McFarland

"As a cattle enthusiast, I am excited to be among the next generation of dedicated cattle industry leaders," says Isaac McFarland, Keithville, La., winner of the \$1,600 second-place boys' scholarship. "I am devoted to the cattle industry that has equipped me with core foundational values as accountability, responsibility and the value of hard work."

Isaac, the son of Mairus and Regina McFarland, has been nationally recognized for his efforts to eliminate hunger. As founder of Game Changers Let's Tackle Hunger, Isaac has been selected for youth advisory boards for organizations like the Providence House Homeless Shelter and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. His healthy food-filled tackle boxes have prevented hunger for more than 8,000 people and were the service project at the 2013 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference.

"My fellow junior Angus breeders' perspectives on life ... have totally changed," Isaac says. "By providing thousands of healthy breakfast 'Tackle Boxes' to children

living in food-insecure homes, I also learned that junior Angus members love to help when given the opportunity."

An active 4-H member, he has experienced success in the showing, most frequently at



**Isaac McFarland**  
second place

the Louisiana State Fair, winning reserve and grand champion through the years. He is a member of the Louisiana Angus Association and served as its vice president in 2013 and 2014. Isaac

has been a part of the NJAA mentor program and participated in the Cook-Off.

Isaac plans to combine his two life passions by majoring in agribusiness at Louisiana Tech University in the fall and continuing to be involved in music. He hopes to work at a local farm to help pay for his education, and to be involved in the university orchestra. Isaac credits the NJAA for having a profound impact on his life.

"The friends I have made in NJAA have always been so supportive and encouraging," he says. "I owe a lot of my success to having been blessed by God, loved by my family and being a member of NJAA."

## Lawson Rowlett

"There is no doubt that my participation in Angus activities has made me the person I am today, and I make a point to credit my accomplishments to the breed and the opportunities that it has presented," says Lawson Rowlett, Hurricane Mills, Tenn., winner of the \$1,450 third-place boys' scholarship.

An active FFA and 4-H member, Lawson has experienced significant success in the showing with Angus class winners, champions and showmanship victories at prestigious livestock shows like the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), Dixie National Livestock Exposition, and the NJAS. The Tennessee Junior Angus Association president-elect,

# Scholarship Winners

Lawson has been active in associations and has even consigned cattle to the Tennessee Angus Association Sale. He considers his accomplishments an example that anyone



**Lawson Rowlett**  
third place

can be successful through hard work. "I hope that my accomplishments and others' examples serve as inspiration to other junior members as proof that they can accomplish great things if they set their mind to it," Lawson says. "They say imitation is the greatest form of flattery, and I consider it an honor when younger showmen and breeders use some of my own tricks of the trade or approach me for advice."

An achievement that Lawson considers most rewarding was producing the high-selling open heifer and the second-high-selling bred heifer at the 2013 Tennessee Agribition Angus Sale. Lawson says the experience taught him "mating decisions we make today will impact our success in the future."

Lawson, the son of Buddy and Kelley Rowlett, will attend Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, where he will be a member of the school's livestock judging team. He considers it an opportunity to hone his livestock selection skills, collaborate with peers and learn about the industry before returning home to expand and improve his own herd.

## Jacob Hinshaw

Winner of the \$1,350 fourth-place boys' scholarship is Jacob Hinshaw, son of Dan and Judy Hinshaw, Secor, Ill. Jacob, a varsity letterman in football, basketball and baseball, has been active in high school while maintaining a perfect 4.0 GPA. He participated as a member of the Illinois Junior Angus Association, Illinois Junior Beef Association, Central Illinois Angus Association and the Woodford County Beef Association.

"By raising cattle, I will be able to be directly involved in the beef industry and the future of agriculture," Jacob says. "I will work

to produce the highest-quality cattle that I can that are structurally sound, eye-appealing and functional so that they will leave a lasting, positive impression on the cattle industry."

Also involved in 4-H and FFA, Jacob is a past 4-H club president and carries the distinction of being the high-point individual at the Illinois State FFA Livestock Judging Contest, NJAS Judging Contest and the Illinois Beef Expo Livestock Judging Contest. He has also had success in the showing, both in the showmanship contest and exhibiting females and steers.

"Caring for and showing livestock isn't just something that I do," Jacob says. "It is part of me, and I believe it makes me who I am."



**Jacob Hinshaw**  
fourth place

Jacob plans to carry that passion to Illinois Central College with him and judge on the school's judging team. After college, Jacob hopes to positively impact the agriculture industry by raising and judging cattle, and by being an active agriculture advocate.

"Livestock judges have the potential to have a tremendous impact on the agriculture industry by expressing their viewpoints to the listening audience," Jacob says. "I believe that a good judge is fair, honest, accurate and displays integrity."

## Tyler Steele

"Leading by example is the best way to help others achieve their goals and objectives in our organization," says Tyler Steele, Anita, Iowa, the fifth-place boys' \$1,250 scholarship winner. "I try to live every day by being humble and gracious, both in victory and defeat."

Tyler has been a director of the Iowa Junior Angus Association for three years, while also serving as both a 4-H and FFA officer. He was a member of the Speak Out For Agriculture planning committee and a director for the Iowa Junior Beef Breeds.

When Tyler was not preparing for extemporaneous speaking, team sales, the Cook-Off or quiz bowl at NJAS, he

was actively involved in his high school. Tyler served as student council president, a National Honor Society member, drum major, a chorus council member and a



**Tyler Steele**  
fifth place

member of the National Forensic League.

"Being part of the National Junior Angus Association has developed my confidence and has pushed me to set lofty goals for myself," Tyler says. "I believe I can be

a good leader because I am a good listener."

Tyler intends to earn a bachelor's degree in biochemistry at either the University of Iowa or Creighton University, then later attend medical school for his doctorate. He hopes to use his status as a physician to educate people about the positive aspects of beef and how it can affect their lives.

Tyler credits his experience on his family farm with teaching him valuable lessons like customer service, vaccinating and assisting in birth, and the hard hours it requires to manage daily animal care — all lessons that will guide him later in life.

"I have enjoyed living and learning on the farm," Tyler says. "It has taught me grit and responsibility and made me a better person."

## Jera Pipkin

"The Angus industry and our family operation have been such an integral part of my childhood that I want to continue the legacy set forth for me by my parents and grandparents," says Jera Pipkin, Republic, Mo., receiving \$1,700 as the first-place girls' scholarship winner. "Everything Angus will continue to be my main avenue as I venture down new paths in life."

President of both the Missouri Junior Angus Association (MJAA) and the Southwest Missouri Junior Angus Association, Jera has fully devoted herself to the Angus breed. As a contributing writer for the *Missouri Angus Trails*, newsletter director for the MJAA and an NJAA voting delegate, Jera is a steady advocate for the Angus breed.

"Ever since my first stride into the

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showing at 3 years old, my passion for the breed has only continued to grow,” Jera says. “This passion has instilled in me not only the desire to be further involved in the industry and to show others the opportunities available within our organization, but also the need to serve and give back.”



**Jera Pipkin**  
first place

A varsity volleyball athlete and team captain, Jera reserved time in high school to focus on her scholastic activities and excellence in FFA involvement. Serving as the Missouri Area XII FFA Association president, Jera was a state qualifier in Public Speaking, Agricultural Issues Forum, Advanced Public Speaking, Agricultural Communications and Beef Production Placement.

Jera saved time for community involvement as well, serving as senior class fundraising team captain for the Republic Kiwanis Club, event-planning chairman for the Republic Elementary Ag Exploration Day, volunteering in the Hood United Methodist Church community kitchen and maintaining National Honor Society membership.

The daughter of James and Joann Pipkin, Jera plans to study ag business and agricultural communications at Oklahoma State University in the fall. She hopes to use her experience in design and writing working for ShowMe AgriComm and Monti West Designs to pursue a career that will allow her to use her talents and leadership skills to help producers better their businesses.

“Leadership skills that I have accrued during my lifetime will also benefit agriculture-related programs as I continue to put my whole heart into my work and push others to succeed in their businesses,” Jera says. “Leadership is driven by desire and defined by others’ successes.”

**Claudia Hissong**

“I feel honored when the membership has faith in me to lead, teach and bring them together,” says Claudia Hissong, Greencastle, Pa., the second-place girls \$1,600 scholarship winner. “I embrace the opportunity to pass on my passion for agriculture to those interested and willing to learn.”

Currently serving as Pennsylvania Angus Princess, Claudia is an active advocate for the

beef industry and Angus cattle. A member of the NJAA, Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association (PJAA) and the Pennsylvania Angus Association, Claudia has enjoyed success in the showring with cattle and behind-the-scenes show planning. She will serve as co-chair for next year’s Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show.

“I am excited to work alongside my fellow junior Angus members to plan, set up and conduct a successful show,” Claudia says. “While it will take a lot of organization, leadership, decision making and work, I am certain we can do it!”

As an active 4-H member, Claudia experienced many opportunities that shaped



**Claudia Hissong**  
second place

her leadership skills. She served in various officer positions for the Franklin County Beef Club, Franklin County Pig Club, 4-H County Council and the Franklin County Goat Club. These opportunities

allowed her to participate in events like the 4-H Capital Day, where she lobbied for 4-H and Extension. “I want to be a voice for our farmers who work day in and day out to feed, clothe and provide for our country,” Claudia says. “I also hope to work with our congressmen to make it more accessible for people to be involved in agriculture, whether it be by encouraging funding for 4-H and FFA members or giving aid to young farmers.”

The daughter of Spencer and Regina Hissong, Claudia plans to attend Kansas State University. She will major in agricultural economics with a specialty in pre-law. Claudia hopes to one day complete law school with an emphasis in serving agriculture.

“I appreciate my NJAA and PJAA mentors, and want to let the younger members know they have an older member they can talk to and look up to,” Claudia says. “I owe so much to the PJAA and the NJAA for building my confidence and helping me become a better communicator.”

**Jordyn Wagner**

Jordyn Wagner, Billings, Mont., the third-place girls \$1,450 scholarship winner, refers to her livestock industry experience as a

never-ending journey — “a journey which has taught me to have a good work ethic, increased my circle of very good friends from all over the United States and given me a way to earn some money,” she says. “I am blessed to be a part of a family business that has given me my passion, my values and my way of life.”



**Jordyn Wagner**  
third place

An active member of the Montana Junior Angus Association (MJAA) and the NJAA, Jordyn impacted younger members in the NJAA mentor program and served as an MJAA queen. Jordyn also served the MJAA as a voting delegate and vice president on the MJAA board of directors. As an NJAA member, Jordyn also participated in the LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences. Above all, Jordyn strives to be an accomplished leader who always gives 100% of her efforts.

“My personal belief is leading by example, and I feel that I am a leader that does not follow the most common path or idea,” Jordyn says. “I believe I set high goals for myself, and I never quit, because anything worth having takes determination and hard work.”

A varsity athlete in soccer and basketball, as well as an Academic All-State player for both sports, Jordyn is no stranger to hard work. She participated actively in high school as a National Honor Society member, student council member, Big Sister Advocate with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, a first-grade class mentor and a basketball coach for a seventh-grade girls traveling team.

“I believe I am known for my three passions: kids, cattle and basketball,” Jordyn says. “I love a challenge and sharing my love of the Angus breed with others.”

The daughter of Darryl and Kari Wagner, Jordyn plans to attend Rocky Mountain College and play on their basketball team. She hopes to pursue degrees in elementary education and agricultural business or agricultural education. Jordyn plans to become a teacher, specifically of first graders because she loves their excitement for learning.



## Allison Hawthorne

“Leadership, hard work, responsibility and commitment are all qualities required to be successful in the cattle industry,” says Allison Hawthorne, Westby, Wis., the fourth-place girls’ \$1,350 scholarship winner. “As I have become more experienced, it has been extremely important for me to give back and help the younger members of the cattle industry and our association, just like older mentors did for me.”

Allison was very active in the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association (WJAA), earning titles like the WJAA Junior of the Year, Miss Wisconsin Angus, WJAA Angus Ambassador and WJAA president. Also an energetic NJAA member, Allison has participated in events like LEAD and the NJAS.



**Allison Hawthorne**  
fourth place

“The livestock industry will always grow and be ever-changing, and I intend to be a part of it,” Allison says. “I will be an advocate for the cattle industry and our Association for many years to come.”

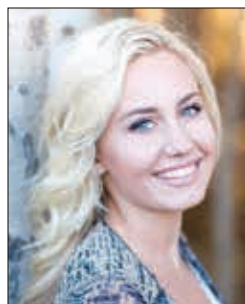
Allison was a dynamic 4-H and FFA member, serving as Nerison 4-H club president, Westby FFA Chapter treasurer, Vernon County Youth Ambassadors vice president and a member of the Wisconsin FFA Honors Band. A high school softball and basketball player, Allison was also involved in high school, participating in her high school concert and jazz band. Allison is an accomplished musician with honors at the state level.

The daughter of Kim and Jim Hawthorne, Allison plans to attend Iowa State University and major in genetics with a minor in communications. Allison would like to study genetic defects in cattle and how they impact the cattle industry. She believes that a minor in communications will help her effectively communicate her knowledge with the public.

“As I start to begin furthering my education, I will carry my past leadership skills and knowledge, and willingly will gain more throughout my time in college,” Allison says. “At the conclusion of college I will help others lead producers in ways that will result in better products for our consumers, resulting in the advancement and continued success of the Angus and beef industries.”

## Ashley Cox

“At such a young age, I never imagined how much my future and my life would be impacted by the Angus breed,” says Ashley Cox, Eagle Point, Ore., the fifth-place girls’ \$1,250 scholarship winner. “Many of the greater things haven’t come easy, and as I continue to be challenged with obstacles, the hard work and devotion I was brought up with by showing and caring for Angus cattle aid me to persevere through the struggling times.”



**Ashley Cox**  
fifth place

Ashley has been active in the Oregon Junior Angus Association (OJAA), Western States Junior Angus Association (WSJAA), and the NJAA. Currently serving as OJAA president, Ashley has had success in and out of the showing, and serves as a mentor and leader for her peers.

“Showing and raising Angus cattle has taught me various vital characteristics

like responsibility, dedication, work ethic, patience and compassion,” Ashley says. “I am very thankful for my involvement in the American Angus Association as it has provided me with numerous programs, characteristics and experiences that have proven beneficial in many capacities.”

Ashley kept busy in high school, earning her state FFA degree, and participating in the Cascade Cattle, Jackson County and Antelope Beef 4-H clubs. Community service was important to Ashley, and she served on the committees for projects associated with Eagle Point High School and the Eagle Point Leadership class.

The daughter of Brad and Buckley Cox, Ashley plans to attend Oklahoma State University with a major in agricultural marketing or agricultural communications and a minor in animal science. Ashley hopes to continue to be an advocate for agriculture and the Angus breed.

“My experiences and involvement in the industry have influenced my choices for the better,” Ashley says. “In school, the community and my future, I have incorporated agriculture in a positive way.”

