

A Gold Standard

Twenty-six National Junior Angus Association members receive Gold Award.

by **Nicole Lane**, editorial intern

To some it may just be a pin plated in gold, but to the 26 junior Angus members earning this award, it is the symbol of the summit of their junior Angus careers. The pin represents their hard work, late nights and lessons learned while showing the business breed.

Gold is a highly malleable metal, ductile and resistant to corrosion. Similar to the metal gold, the juniors recognized at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla., for earning their Gold Award have been molded by this organization. They have been stretched and strained, but also shaped into excellent leaders, breeders and showmen. These individuals have reached the pinnacle of their junior Angus careers and are being honored in their final year of eligibility.

To qualify for the Gold Award, members must first earn the Bronze and Silver awards within the National Junior Recognition Program

(NJRP) by earning a total of 1,000 points per each award. Being recognized with the Gold Award means members have amassed a minimum of 3,000 points, earned by participating in junior activities, performance testing, production and merchandising of Angus genetics, and other relevant association or beef industry activities.

The NJRP was established more than 40 years ago to provide juniors the opportunity to be nationally recognized for their continued success. The bronze, silver and gold award system allows members to be acknowledged for their achievements and encourages them to strive for excellence.

The 26 Gold Award winners were presented with a special pin cast in gold and will receive local, regional and national recognition for their efforts.

Michael Cropp

A fifth-generation farmer, Michael Cropp has been a member of the NJAA since he was 4 years old. From Damascus, Md., he



Michael Cropp

dedicated many of his years in the NJAA to serving as a leader. Highly involved in the Maryland Junior Angus Association, Cropp served in several officer positions, including reporter, junior liaison and vice

president for two years. He also represented his state association as a voting delegate three times and attended Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) twice.

In 2014, he expanded his leadership service, as he was elected to serve as a director on the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB), and this year he was elected to serve the board as communications director.

At NJAS Cropp competed in team sales, quiz bowl, creative writing, livestock judging and the poster contest. He also competed in the NJAS carcass contest, placing first in 2011.

"As I look back on my junior Angus experience, I am filled with gratitude for my parents, countless mentors and the American Angus Association who have provided tremendous opportunities for my personal development and success," says Cropp.

He is currently working to improve his herd by applying science and technology through genomic profiles and genetic

selection using artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer.

Cropp is entering his junior year at Kansas State University (K-State)—Manhattan where he is a member of the meats judging team. He is pursuing a degree in animal sciences with a minor in food science. Upon graduation he plans to do graduate studies in food science and hopes to work in the food industry in meat product research and development. He is the son of Craig and Michele Cropp.

Robert Dolson

A Lone Star State native, Robert Dolson from Hico, Texas, has been involved with Angus cattle since 2004. The son of Ken and



Robert Dolson

Peg Dolson, he was an active member of the Texas Junior Angus Association, serving in the leadership roles of treasurer in 2012 and president in 2014.

He grasped many of the opportunities being a junior

member provides as he represented his state three times as a voting delegate and attended LEAD in 2013 and 2014.

At the NJAS Dolson competed in team sales, placing first in 2012 and again in 2013. He also participated in the NJAS mentoring program in 2013. Dolson is an avid showman and has exhibited bred-and-owned (B&O) Angus cattle at several state and national shows.

A small-scale breeder, Dolson has placed an emphasis on the maternal side of his herd, using AI to produce rapid genetic improvements. He has submitted Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) and has used the data to make selection decisions in breeding profitable stock. His success in cattle sales has helped him pay college tuition and work toward his goal of graduating debt-free.

Dolson was the recipient of the Undergraduate Angus Foundation Scholarship and the Texas Angus Association "Texas Challenge" Scholarship.

He says some of his experiences as a junior Angus member can't be described on paper, but live instead in the lifelong connections he made as a part of this organization.

Dolson plans to graduate from Tarleton State University, Stephenville, Texas, in December 2016 with a degree in agricultural industries. He hopes his future career will include being a part of the beef industry and that he will remain involved in the world of Angus.

Andrea Foore

"I will always treasure the memories of showing cattle, participating in contests and traveling all over the country meeting new friends," says Andrea Foore of her NJAA experience. The Seven Valleys, Pa., native became an NJAA member when she was 9 years old. From there, she hit the ground running, attending junior Angus shows, holding association offices and improving her cattle herd.

A member of the Pennsylvania Junior

Angus Association, Foore served in various offices, including secretary, historian, vice president and eventually president in 2012. During her junior career, Foore attended LEAD three times and was a Raising the Bar participant. In 2011 she served as the Pennsylvania Angus princess.



Andrea Foore

A competitive member, Foore participated in creative writing, team fitting, quiz bowl, livestock judging and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off at the NJAS. Foore also showed at local, state, regional and national exhibitions and showmanship contests. In 2011 she owned the grand champion at the Pennsylvania Farm Show and was the representative from her state in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest at NJAS.

Her dedication to the organization has now extended beyond her NJAA membership, as she is currently the education and events intern for the American Angus Association. She is working to give back to the organization that benefitted her by spending her summer traveling to shows and helping organize junior events.

The daughter of Mark and Christine Foore, she is a junior at Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pa., majoring in agriculture business management. Foore plans to graduate in May 2016.

Lauren Grimes

Lauren Grimes from Hillsboro, Ohio, showed hogs until she was old enough to “finally” begin showing cattle at 8 years old. She joined the NJAA in 2000 and took advantage of as many opportunities as she could.



Lauren Grimes

“The National Junior Angus Association provides endless opportunities through leadership activities, industry events, and educational programs that have helped me and other young cattlemen grow both personally and professionally,” says Grimes.

Currently serving as leadership director

on the NJAB, Grimes is a passionate and successful showman. She owned and led the grand champion heifer at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) twice and earned reserve grand champion B&O heifer at the NJAS on two separate occasions. In 2012 she helped make the NJAS possible by serving as co-chair of the event.

A member of the Ohio Junior Angus Association, she served in the office of president for two years. She also represented her Association as a voting delegate in 2013. Grimes attended LEAD in 2014 and will now help with the conference in her new role of leadership director on the NJAB.

An active partner in her parents’ seedstock operation, Grimes has focused on keeping accurate herd data and records. She is using genomic profile testing to help make better selection decisions in her herd.

The daughter of John and Joanie Grimes, she is in her fourth year of pharmacy school at Ohio Northern University at Ada, Ohio. After earning her doctorate of pharmacy degree, she hopes to stay closely connected with the Angus breed and make an impact in the field of human and animal medicine.

Jacob Heimsoth

This NJAB director is a 13-year member of the NJAA. Inspired by the organization to “step outside of his comfort zone,” Jacob



Jacob Heimsoth

Heimsoth has chased after the opportunities it provided. He served the organization as treasurer and president. He also attended LEAD on three separate occasions and was a Raising the Bar participant.

On top of exhibiting cattle at the NJAS for 10 consecutive years, he competed in photography, creative writing, livestock judging, the Cook-Off, team fitting and golf. In 2011 his fitting and Cook-Off teams both finished first. Also in 2011, he served as a voting delegate and took home a division winner banner in the show.

Outside of NJAA Heimsoth is a competitive golfer, participated on the Butler Community College livestock judging team

and is a graduate of Butler Community College, El Dorado, Kan. He is currently working toward earning an animal science degree from K-State.

“While my future is unclear, I do know that raising quality Angus cattle with my family is a for-sure thing,” says Heimsoth, who was elected NJAB vice chairman this year. “I plan to always be active in the Angus Association, both here in Missouri and nationally.”

Robert Hosto

An NJAA member since 2003, Robert Hosto was also involved in 4-H, the Illinois Junior Angus Association and the Southern



Robert Hosto

Illinois Junior Angus Association. He served as a director for the latter two.

An active showman, he has competed at local, state, regional and national shows. At the NJAS he competed in

photography, quiz bowl and extemporaneous public speaking. He was involved in the mentoring program in 2007 and attended the LEAD conference in 2010 and 2011.

When not in the barn, Hosto remained focused on the classroom and earned the Illinois Angus Auxiliary Scholarship in 2012.

He has also submitted weaning and yearling data to AHIR and consigned cattle at the Illinois Performance Tested Bull Sale.

From Alhambra, Ill., he is the son of Mark and Brenda Hosto. He is currently working toward a degree in weed science at Southern Illinois University–Carbondale and plans to graduate with his bachelor’s degree in 2016.

Dru Kenny

Dru Kenny says his involvement in the NJAA inspired him to grow as a person,



Dru Kenny

cattlemen and professional. His NJAA experiences motivated him to learn more about the industry by attending AI school and interning with Sitz Angus Ranch in Montana.

Life on the ranch and experiences in the NJAA motivated Kenny to develop his herd and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 138

A Gold Standard CONTINUED FROM PAGE 137

bulls, marketing several of them at the Kenny, Morris and Wiederstein Bull Sale for numerous years. He also submitted weight data to AHIR and has consigned cattle at the EAGA Turn Out Sale and the Iowa Beef Expo.

He is the son of Brian and Sue Kenny from Schaller, Iowa. A dynamic showman, Kenny found success at local shows and his county fair. At the NJAS Kenny competed in the livestock judging, team sales and quiz bowl contests.

“The Angus industry as a whole has made a huge impact on my life and has substantially influenced my decisions for the future,” says Kenny.

Kenny is a sophomore at South Dakota State University–Brookings (SDSU), pursuing a degree in animal science. He will graduate in May 2017.

Shyla Kreager

From Newark, Ohio, Shyla Kreager had her first experience with Angus cattle when she was 5 years old, watching her older brother with his bucket calf.



Shyla Kreager

That first calf sparked a passion for the breed and industry that has motivated Kreager to pursue excellence in the Angus industry.

Kreager has been active in both the Ohio Junior Angus Association, serving in the offices of

secretary and reporter, and the Eastern Ohio Junior Angus Association, serving as vice president and president. She also represented her state association as Ohio Angus queen in 2012.

“What I have enjoyed most is meeting people from all over the United States who share the same passion I have for Angus cattle,” says Kreager.

At the NJAS, she competed in livestock judging, poster, quiz bowl, photography, team sales and public speaking. She says these contests helped her develop important skills not just useful in the cattle industry, but in other aspects of her professional life.

Kreager is a senior at the Ohio State University–Columbus majoring in animal science with a bioscience focus. After graduation she plans to enter a physician’s assistant program, hoping to work in trauma and orthopedics all while continuing a small beef herd on the side. She is the daughter of Dan and Becky Kreager.

Stephanie Lastovica

Stephanie Lastovica hails from Salado, Texas, and is the daughter of Stephen and Sandra Lastovica.

As an NJAA member she competed in photography, quiz bowl, creative writing, the Cook-Off, scrapbook and graphic design.



Stephanie Lastovica

An avid showman, she showed for eight years at every major show in Texas and numerous national shows across the United States.

A member of the Texas Junior Angus Association, she is currently serving

as a director on the TJAA board and she has served the organization as reporter and royalty. She was a TJAA scholarship winner in 2014 and has attended LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences.

“The most rewarding accomplishment I can attribute to my time spent in the showing is the work ethic, responsibility, discipline and life skills I learned,” says Lastovica. “Not only was I better prepared for college due to my time spent raising and exhibiting Angus stock, but I am also better prepared for life.”

Stephanie has consigned cattle in the Grand Slam Genetics sale, the Texas Angus Breeders’ Select Sale, The Hunt sale, the Black Label Event and the Lastovica/Dameron Angus Bull sale.

She is currently enrolled at Texas A&M University–College Station studying agricultural leadership and development and plans to graduate in May 2016. Her future goals involve working in international cattle marketing.

Maci Lienemann

Maci Lienemann is a senior at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln (UNL), majoring in animal science with a focus in



Maci Lienemann

biology. An NJAA member since 2008, Lienemann hit the ground running, taking advantage of the opportunities that being involved in Angus offers.

A member of the Nebraska Junior Angus Association, she served as both second vice president and president of the organization, in each office

for two years. Lienemann also represented her state association as royalty when she was crowned queen in 2013.

In addition to her involvement on the state level, Lienemann served as the 2013-2014 American Angus Association Ambassador. On the national level she competed in creative writing, placing first in 2014, quiz bowl, team sales, extemporaneous and prepared public speaking, and several other career development categories. She plays an active role in her family’s first-generation registered-Angus operation, Lienemann Cattle Co., and owns a personal herd of 20 registered-Angus cattle.

Lienemann has managed all these activities in addition to keeping her focus on the classroom. She is a recipient of the Beef Improvement Federation Roy A. Wallace Memorial Scholarship, the undergraduate Colvin Scholarship Award and the Keith R. Olsen Ag Policy Scholarship and internship. In the summer of 2015 she worked in the office of Nebraska Senator Ben Sasse, who serves on the Senate Committee on Agriculture.

“The opportunities provided through the American Angus Association and National Junior Angus Association have been tremendous and have contributed to my success both personally and as an Angus producer,” Lienemann says.

Upon finishing her undergraduate degree, Lienemann hopes to pursue an advanced degree in animal science, focused in livestock genetics.

Cheyann Lovett

“I have been around Angus all my life and at times it seems that Angus runs through my blood,” says Cheyann Lovett, an NJAA member since 2001. The Bladen, Neb., native is the daughter of Jeff and Sandy Lovett.

Lovett is involved in the Nebraska Junior Angus Association, serving the organization



Cheyann Lovett

as a director and as second vice president for two years.

She represented Nebraska as a voting delegate in 2013 and was crowned queen in 2012. She was the recipient of the Nebraska

Angus Association Scholarship in 2012 and attended Raising the Bar in 2015. Lovett competed in team sales and quiz bowl at NJAS.

Her success with Angus cattle expanded beyond her numerous showing

accomplishments in local, state and national shows. As an FFA member, she earned the Star Farmer award in beef production and a silver and bronze award in beef proficiency. She also is a Masters of Beef Advocacy graduate.

Lovett is an agriculture education and leadership student with a minor in meat science at UNL. Her future plans include a career in consumer education or retail meat sales. She is continuing to improve her herd of Angus cattle and hopes to help orchestrate a family production sale in the near future.

When not in the classroom or showing, Lovett works at the USDA as a bio-technician expanding her agricultural knowledge and experiences.

Esther McCabe

From Elk City, Kan., Esther McCabe has been a long-standing leader in the NJAA and Kansas Junior Angus Association. At the state level, she has served in the offices of historian, treasurer, first vice president and is currently president. McCabe has represented her state association as a voting delegate twice, attended LEAD twice and was a Raising the Bar participant in 2013.



Esther McCabe

McCabe placed first in public speaking at the NJAS in 2014 and also competed in Quiz Bowl. At the 2011 NJAS she participated in the mentoring program.

McCabe is a passionate showman, exhibiting her cattle at all levels across the nation. At the 2014 NJAS she represented her state in the NJAS showmanship contest, earning honorable mention. She also has several division winners and champion banners from the KJAA Futurity show, the NJAS and the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show.

Her love for cattle and livestock has extended into her professional life. For the summer of 2015 she was the genetic sales intern for Zoetis.

She is the daughter of Randy and Varee McCabe. Currently, she is working toward an animal science degree at K-State and plans to graduate in December 2015.

Kendra Merriman

After her first NJAS experience in 2006, Kendra Merriman says she knew that she was going to breed, raise and show Angus cattle for the rest of her life. The first show sparked

her passion for involvement and leadership in Angus organizations.

A member of the Michigan Junior Angus Association, she has served the organization as reporter and president. The 2011 Michigan Angus queen, she also attended Raising the Bar conferences three times, served as a voting delegate and represented her state in the National Junior Angus Showmanship competition.

At NJAS Merriman competed in nearly every educational event, including quiz bowl, graphic design, extemporaneous public speaking, creative writing, team fitting and sales. In 2014 she took home first place in the CAB Cook-Off and photography. She also was the recipient of two Angus Foundation scholarships.

"This breed association has given me experiences that I will never forget," says Merriman. "I've met friends from all corners of the country and developed skills that will serve me throughout my life."

She expects to graduate from Davenport College, Grand Rapids, Mich., in May of 2016 with a degree in business administration. Merriman is the daughter of Joseph and Susan Merriman from Lowell, Mich.

Ruth Ann Myers

The 2012-2013 Kentucky Angus Queen, Ruth Ann Myers has a passion for agriculture and the Angus breed that she loves to share with others. A member of the Kentucky Junior Angus Association, she served the organization as director, secretary and reporter for two years.



Ruth Ann Myers

At NJAS she competed in the Chef's Challenge and quiz bowl.

Myers submitted data to AHIR and is using genomic profiling in her herd.

She is working toward a degree in agricultural education at the University of Kentucky (UK). At UK, she is involved in the sorority Delta Delta Delta, College of

Agriculture Student Council and serves as a College of Agriculture Ambassador. Currently she is taking a year off school to serve as the Eastern Region vice president for the National FFA Organization. Upon graduation, Myers hopes to work as an agricultural education instructor in an urban middle school.

Elizabeth Nixon

As a member of the Virginia Angus Association, Elizabeth Nixon served as director for two years, was a voting delegate in 2012 and 2015, and represented her state in the 2012 NJAS showmanship contest.

Nixon took home first place in the photography contest at NJAS in 2011. She has also competed in team sales, livestock judging, the CAB Cook-Off, career development and quiz bowl.



Elizabeth Nixon

She has submitted data to AHIR and used genomic profiling on some of her herd. Nixon also has been honored as a two-time NJAA scholarship winner. "I would not trade the experiences I have had through showing and being a member of the NJAA and the Virginia Junior Angus Association for anything," says Nixon. "I truly believe they define a part of who I am, and the lessons I've learned are completely irreplaceable."

Nixon is a junior at Oklahoma State University—Stillwater double majoring in agricultural communications and animal science, and she competes on the livestock judging team. Upon graduation she hopes to obtain a communications position within the beef industry and work to be an advocate for beef and agriculture. She is the daughter of Kim and Tom Nixon of Rapidan, Va.

Jared Radcliffe

An SDSU Jackrabbit, Jared Radcliffe is studying agricultural systems technology with hopes of pursuing a career in agriculture. This is a goal that he says junior Angus activities have helped him prepare for and work toward.

In 2014 Radcliffe bred and owned the grand champion bull at the NJAS. At the show he has also competed in the fitting contest and CAB Cook-Off. He has been successful at numerous other shows around the country. Also in 2014, he won grand champion bull at the World Beef Expo in Milwaukee, Wis.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 140

A Gold Standard CONTINUED FROM PAGE 139

The son of Renee Radcliffe, he has been the recipient of both NJAA and Wisconsin Angus Association scholarships.



Jared Radcliffe

has molded him and helped solidify his decision to remain involved in Angus cattle throughout the rest of his life.

“Raising Angus cattle has truly sculpted my life and made me who I am,” says Radcliffe. “It has taught me responsibility along with planning skills that will help me in all aspects of my future life.”

Radcliffe is from Weston, Wis.

Ty Ruby

Ty Ruby says he has enjoyed the opportunity to learn advanced animal husbandry practices and exhibit his Angus



Ty Ruby

cattle around the country as a member of the NJAA and the Iowa Angus Association.

From Geene, Iowa, he has served as a director for four years for the Iowa Junior Angus Association and also

was a director for the North Central Iowa Junior Angus Association. He also won the state boys' scholarship from the Iowa Angus Association.

Ruby has submitted weight data to AHIR and consigned cattle in the Sharing in the Progress sale and the Sioux Empire Show and Sale.

Ruby says his involvement with Angus has helped prepare him for a future that will allow Angus cattle to become his livelihood.

“As I look forward to the years ahead, I continue to plan for the time when I will be able to take over the family livestock business and tend to the farm that has been in my family for generations,” says Ruby.

Ruby is currently enrolled at North Iowa Area Community College in Mason City, Iowa, majoring in agriculture business. He is the son of Mike and Sandy Ruby.

Joshua Scott

Joshua Scott, from Loranger, La., says he can't imagine his life without cattle, horses or crops. The son of Julius and Monette Scott has attended LEAD four times, been a Raising the Bar participant, and served as an officer for the Louisiana Junior Angus Association for four years.



Joshua Scott

At the NJAS he placed first in both the CAB Cook-Off and photography contests for two consecutive years. He also participated in the mentoring program twice and exhibited owned cattle in the show for numerous years.

He says his experiences as a junior Angus member have taught him to live a life of service to others through fundraising activities to help local charities and community service events. He currently serves as a volunteer firefighter in his home community.

Scott attends McNeese State University in Lake Charles, La., where he is a junior studying agriculture with a focus in animal sciences. He plans to graduate in May 2016 and hopes to work for a company that specializes in animal nutrition, feed rations or fertilizer mixes for forages and crops. He adds that he could definitely consider a career as a regional manager for the American Angus Association.

As his junior Angus career comes to an end, he says he has only one thing to say: “Thank you to the National Junior Angus Association, my family and friends for all your help and support throughout my years as a junior Angus member.”

Taryn Shaw

From Jennings, La., Taryn Shaw has been a member of the NJAA since she was 9 years old. An avid showman, Shaw has shown in local, regional and national contests around the United States.

She was also a member of the Louisiana Junior Angus Association, which she served as a director in 2012. At the NJAS she competed for several years in livestock judging and team fitting, taking home first place in the 2013 and 2014 team fitting contests.

Her participation in Angus activities has helped her pay for college as she is the

recipient of several Angus Foundation Scholarships in addition to state and



Taryn Shaw

Auxiliary scholarships. Shaw focused on data in her herd, using genomic profiling and yearling records and submitting data to AHIR.

Shaw's passion for livestock extended beyond her involvement in the NJAS. She was very involved in 4-H, through which she competed on the national winning 4-H livestock judging team and was named high-point individual for the contest.

The daughter of Sandra Crochet, she is a senior at McNeese State University, majoring in sociology. She expects to graduate in May 2016 and plans to pursue a career in law enforcement.

Emily Velisek

The 2012 Maryland Angus Queen, Emily Velisek is the daughter of Douglas and Pamela Velisek of Gaithersburg, Md. Velisek is an agricultural communications and



Emily Velisek

journalism major at K-State. She plans to graduate in December of 2016.

In the Maryland Junior Angus Association, Velisek held the offices of historian for two years, secretary and president. In 2013 and 2014 she was a voting delegate at the NJAS, where she has previously competed in livestock judging and quiz bowl, as well as the scrapbook and CAB Cook-Off contests. In 2014 she represented her state in the showmanship competition.

Velisek is a successful showman and has exhibited her Angus cattle in various local, regional, state and national shows. In 2014 she bred and owned the grand champion cow-calf pair at the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show. She says these experiences are ones she will cherish and have motivated her to remain active in the Angus community.

“I've been showing Angus cattle since I could walk,” says Velisek. “My time as a National Junior Angus member helped shape me into the leader I am today and introduced

me to a great industry that I hope to be involved in for the rest of my life.”

Samuel Wallace

Samuel Wallace says that every month of the year since he was 8 years old has been spent preparing for or traveling to cattle shows. This lifestyle continues today and he is helping fund his college education at Connors State College, Warner, Okla., (where he is a member of the Connors State College Show Team) by clipping and fitting cattle for families across the Midwest.

During his junior Angus career, Wallace attended LEAD three times and was involved in the Southwest Missouri Junior Angus Association, which he served as

vice president. In 2014 he was the state representative in the National Junior Angus



Samuel Wallace

Showmanship Contest, in which he placed third. He also competed in the CAB Cook-Off, placing first on two separate occasions; livestock judging; and team fitting. “I am forever grateful to my parents for giving me the opportunity to show cattle and become involved in the NJAA,” Wallace says. “Although my junior career is coming to an end, my involvement

in the cattle industry is not, as my future plans lie in the livestock world.”

The son of Ernie and Tammy Wallace of Stotts City, Mo., he plans to return to the farm upon graduation. His future goals include growing his family’s operation, furthering the genetics of his herd and making an impact on the livestock industry.

Wade Wells

From the Lone Star State, Wade Wells used the knowledge he gained showing the business breed to start a business of his own. Under the name Wells Transport, he hauls registered livestock from coast to coast in

CONTINUED ON PAGE 142

A Gold Standard CONTINUED FROM PAGE 141

addition to working for Hoffman Ranches in Nebraska.

"I know my ties to cattle have facilitated the success of my business," says Wells. "The cattle industry is wide open, and I look forward to continuing my involvement in it."



Wade Wells

Wells served as treasurer and secretary for the Texas Junior Angus Association and received

numerous scholarships from various Angus organizations. At NJAS he competed for several years in team sales, winning the Bob Lafflin Award in 2013, and competed in the career development contest.

During his time as a junior member, he showed across the United States in state, regional and national shows. He also was a three-time attendee of LEAD.

The son of Tom and Merridee Wells of Hamilton, Texas, he says he looks forward to his future in the cattle business. Wells says, "Whatever opportunities life offers, they will certainly have roots in Angus!"

Peyton Williams

The son of Rick and Kristi Williams of Johnson City, Tenn., Peyton Williams joined the NJAA in 2004.



Peyton Williams

He has also been an active member of the Tennessee Junior Angus Association and the East Tennessee Angus Association.

An avid showman, he has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship competitions. At NJAS, Williams participated in the livestock judging contest, team sales and the mentoring program. He also participated in LEAD in 2011. In 2014, Williams represented Tennessee at the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest.

A data-driven cattleman, Williams has done genomic profile testing on his herd and submitted information to AHIR. He has also consigned cattle for several years in the Greene City Angus Sale.

Outside of NJAA, he was very involved in FFA and 4-H, serving as vice president and president of his 4-H chapter.

Williams is studying business at Northeast

Community College and plans to graduate in 2016.

Jackson Wingert

The first vice president of the Kansas Junior Angus Association, Jackson Wingert has been an NJAA member since 2003.



Jackson Wingert

Wingert attended LEAD twice and was a Raising the Bar participant. He exhibited his Angus cattle at shows of all levels around the nation. Most recently, at the 2015 Kansas Angus Futurity show he

won the champion B&O female and was champion senior showman.

At the NJAS he competed in quiz bowl, public speaking, livestock judging and team sales.

In his herd Wingert has focused on making data-based breeding selections. To do so, he has used genomic profiling and performance tested several bulls in his herd, which has given him the opportunity to consign animals in the McCurry Bull Sale.

A student at K-State, Wingert is majoring in agricultural business and plans to graduate in May of 2017. He is the son of George and Diana Wingert of Ottawa, Kan.

Evan Woodbury

A current NJAB director, Evan Woodbury didn't start off showing Angus. He began with a few Hereford heifers until his dad bought



Evan Woodbury

five Angus cow-calf pairs that would "change their lives," says Woodbury.

He began showing the black cattle at small local shows, working his way up to the NJAS. His love for the showing and cattle inspired

him to get involved in the leadership of both the NJAA and the Kansas Junior Angus Association. He attended LEAD and Raising the Bar twice and served the KJAA as secretary and second vice president. He just completed his first year on the NJAB and was elected at NJAS to serve his second year on the board as Foundation director.

At NJAS he participated in the poster, livestock judging, quiz bowl, team sales,

public and extemporaneous speaking contests and the 2012 mentoring program. In 2014 Woodbury was awarded the Angus Foundation Richard L. Spader Scholarship.

A senior at K-State, Woodbury is double-majoring in animal science and agriculture education. After graduation in May 2016, he plans to return to help with the ranch and have a secondary agriculture-based job on the side so he can "raise and show Angus cattle for the rest of my life."

He is the son of Howard and Elise Woodbury of Quenemo, Kan.

Corbin Yon

From Ridge Spring, S.C., Corbin Yon has been an NJAA member since the year he was born. The son of Kevin and Lydia Yon, he is a



Corbin Yon

junior at Clemson University, majoring in agricultural mechanization and business with a minor in animal and veterinary sciences.

During his NJAA career, he served as the president of the South Carolina

Junior Angus Association, was a voting delegate at NJAS and was the winner of numerous Angus scholarships, one being the Angus Foundation Richard L. Spader Scholarship.

In 2013, he represented his state in the showmanship competition at the NJAS. At previous junior national shows he competed in quiz bowl, team sales, photography and judging contests. At the 2011 NJAS, he placed first in senior team sales.

Yon says that growing up on a farm and being involved in junior Angus activities instilled in him the value of giving back and how important it is to actively engage in organizations in your chosen field. He is a volunteer firefighter in his local community, active in the agricultural fraternity Alpha Gamma Rho and is a member of the Saluda County Cattlemen's Association.

After graduation Yon plans to return to the family farm to assist in management, expansion and diversification.



Editor's Note: The above bios were compiled with information provided on applications for the Gold Award. They do not include all activities this summer. Please refer to coverage of junior activities, including the 2015 National Junior Angus Show, for details of additional accomplishments by these active juniors.