

# MADISON SQUARED

North Dakota and South Dakota Angus queens continue a friendship formed years ago.

Story & photos by *Mayzie Purviance*, editorial intern



► North Dakota Angus Queen Madison Sundsbak (left) and South Dakota Angus Queen Madison Styles pose for a photo before the Queens' Luncheon at the 2017 National Junior Angus Show.

For more on "the Madisons," view this segment from *The Angus Report*: <https://youtu.be/zVPu1sN6gA8?t=2m29s>.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADISON STYLES

Each year, the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) brings together young producers from all over the country. Bonds are formed and friendships are made. Some continue into the next year; some end on the final show day. Sometimes, they last a lifetime.

## Madison, meet Madison

Madison Sundsbak and Madison Styles met five years ago at the NJAS in Louisville while playing cornhole at one of the many social events put on by the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

"I thought she was weird at first," Styles

says with a grin. Over the course of the week in Louisville, the girls began to see more and more of each other, and a friendship blossomed.

North Dakota Angus Queen Sundsbak spends her free time in the barn with her cattle and serves as president of the North Dakota Junior Angus Association. She showed a bred-and-owned heifer at the 2017 NJAS and has recently been elected to serve on the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB).

Styles is Miss South Dakota Angus and spends most of her free time in the cattle

barn, as well. She competed in the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off competition at this year's NJAS and also served as a voting delegate.

Both girls praise the NJAA for many reasons, but they say the most important thing the NJAA has given them is a best friend. The two Madisons continued their friendship through the years and, as each junior national passed, their bond grew.

Sundsbak jokes that their fathers said they needed to just live together so they wouldn't be on the road so much — and that's exactly what they did.

## Hyde Hall, Room 203

Styles and Sundsbak both are enrolled at South Dakota State University (SDSU) — Sundsbak majoring in agricultural education and Styles in pharmacy. When they were both accepted into the college, it was a no-brainer to request they be roommates.

"I'm messy; she watches *Harry Potter* — a lot. I'm from the North; she's from the South. I'm the tall one; she's the short one," says Sundsbak.

Styles adds, "I'm definitely the cooler Madison!" and both girls double over in laughter.

They share stories of their year living together — like the tale of a "stinky, accidentally unplugged" mini refrigerator and being told by their resident advisor to keep their music turned down. They also commented that their dorm room was decorated in cattle (naturally).

Styles and Sundsbak exemplify give and take. They finish each other's sentences, and it doesn't take long to pick up on the sister-like love they share for one another. They are two peas in a pod.

## Angus royalty

Both Madisons say they have been active in the NJAA for as long as they can remember. The 2017 NJAS was Sundsbak's seventh and Styles' eighth. Both come from agricultural backgrounds, and both were raised around the Angus breed.

"It's really all we've ever known," says Sundsbak.

The girls elaborate on their time serving as Angus queens, saying it's a once-in-a-lifetime experience they are happy they were able to experience together.

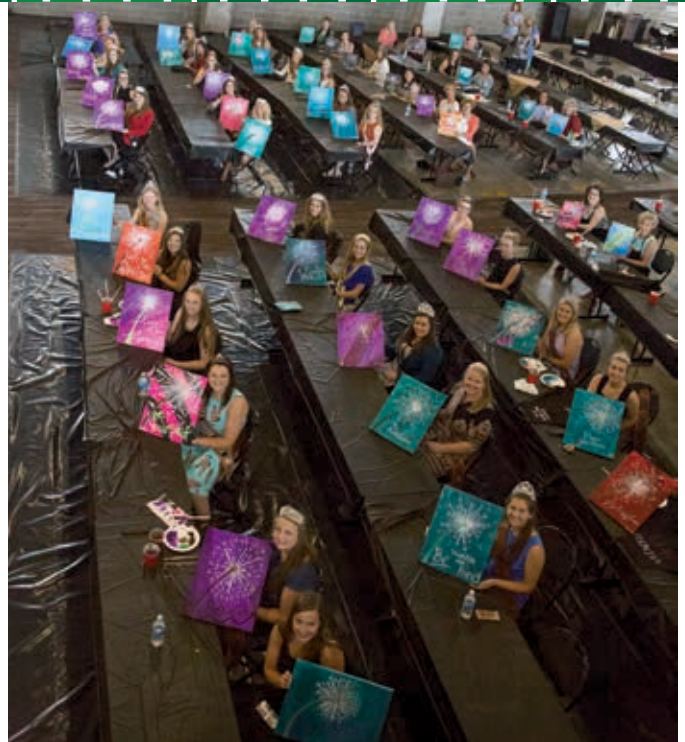
"It's just another opportunity to be involved with the American Angus Association and to meet people," says Styles. "It's awesome to have those younger kids

## WINNING WITH THE ANGUS TEAM

PHOTO BY ID ROSMAN



► Sundsbak gives her speech at the 2017 NJAA Candidate-Delegate Dinner at the Sheraton Hotel in Des Moines, Iowa.



► Above: Angus queens hold up their paintings from the paint party during the Queens' Luncheon.

► Below: Styles laughs behind the scenes of the Cook-Off at the 2017 NJAS.



► Above: Styles, Sundsbak and other junior members celebrate as it is announced at the NJAS closing ceremonies that Sundsbak has been elected to the NJAB.

► Below: Sashes worn by the Angus queens are displayed around the Miss American Angus crown at the Queens' Luncheon.



run up to you and say, 'I want to be like you someday!' That's kind of a great feeling to have."

Being selected as a state Angus queen is a prestigious honor. Throughout the year, Angus royalty spend their time in and out of the showring and sale barn, handing out awards and representing the breed.

### Jewels added to the Angus crown

Sundsbak and Styles are both passionate about agriculture and plan to continue contributing to the industry in the future.

Sundsbak offers words of advice to other members of the NJAA: "Follow by example, then you get to lead by example."

Styles and Sundsbak are two gems

embedded in the NJAA. They advocate for the organization on a daily basis, they have a desire to make it better, and they have the support of each other along the way. The girls are living proof that the NJAS is more than just a cattle show — it can give you your very best friend.

