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# NJAB Celebrates 35 Years

Past board members share how the green jacket influenced their lives.

by *Nicole Lane*, editorial intern

The green coats of the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) have become a symbol of leadership to many in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). Described as a “leadership beyond words,” this year marks the 35th anniversary of the green blazer. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla., many who once wore the jacket gathered at the NJAB Reunion to reconnect and celebrate the board’s 35 years.

Created in 1980, the junior board serves as the leadership and governing body for the NJAA. Working to inspire and help young Angus producers, the 12-member board is elected to two-year terms. The two years are spent traveling to countless shows, conferences and Angus events promoting

the breed and its youth. Over the years, these young leaders have left a lasting impact on the organization, but the experience also deeply influenced them.

## Career success

At the reunion Jennifer Carrico, board member from 1992-1994, reflected on her board experience. Carrico served as the communications director during her second year on the NJAB. It was a fitting position, as she now works in agricultural communications as a field editor for the *High Plains Journal*. She says her NJAB experience sparked her interest in communications and helped prepare her for her career.

The lessons she learned have been so

valuable to her that she wants to make sure they are passed on to her children.

“The National Junior Angus Board is very professional. They know what they are there for, how to be good ring stewards and are great role models,” Carrico says. “It was a great part of my life, and it’s amazing to see the continued success throughout the years.”

Still an Angus breeder today, Carrico traveled to Tulsa to bring her children to the show. Although not exhibiting cattle, her children are NJAA members and competed on a fitting team and in the photography contest.

“I just think the Angus breed raises the bar,” says Carrico. “It makes me very proud to be a part of it and proud to say I wore the green jacket.”

► Above: The inaugural National Junior Angus Board included (front row, from left) **Julie McMahon**, Arkansas; **Tracy Crose**, California; **Angie Hunt**, Indiana; **Tracey Chapman**, Georgia; **Jodie Wallace**, West Virginia; **Sharon Diuble**, Michigan; (back row, from left) Jerry Lipsey, past director of junior activities; **George McDonald**, Tennessee; **Mark Wyble**, Louisiana; **Dale Rains**, Pennsylvania; **Brad Staley**, Iowa; **Bruce Kroeker**, Kansas; and **John Kiesewetter**, Illinois.

## Lifelong lessons

Brandon Douglas, board member from 1999-2001, showed up to the reunion proudly wearing his green jacket. Douglas traveled back to NJAB just for the reunion and the opportunity to reconnect with other past board members. Although now only involved in beef production as a consumer, Douglas says the lessons he learned on the NJAB helped him succeed during his tenure in the military and now in his current position working in the oil fields.

To juniors who want to make the most of the experience, he advises, "Take pride in what you do, do your own work and push yourself to be better each day."

## Continued service

Lori Stickley's NJAB experience helped her get her first job. After serving as chairman on the 1991-1993 board, she launched her career with Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) in foodservice marketing. Although no longer involved directly in the

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PHOTOS BY NICOLE LANE

► New and old NJAB members mingle at the NJAB Reunion during the National Junior Angus Show in Tulsa, Okla.

## 35 years of NJAB directors

### 2014-2016

Michael Cropp, Maryland  
Lauren Grimes, Ohio  
Jacob Heimsoth, Missouri  
Alex Rogen, South Dakota  
Katlyn Tunstill, Arkansas  
Evan Woodbury, Kansas

### 2013-2015

Will Fiske, Virginia  
Shane Kerner, Idaho  
Jessica Radcliffe, Wisconsin  
Lindsay Upperman,  
Pennsylvania  
Cory Watt, South Carolina  
Tylee Jo Williams, Texas

### 2012-2014

Jacy Alsup, Arkansas  
Maggie Jasper, Kentucky  
Daniel McFarland, Louisiana  
Luke Nord, Minnesota  
Jena Wagner, Montana  
Paige Wallace, Missouri

### 2011-2013

Megan Ahearn, Texas  
Meghan Blythe, Kansas  
Jennifer Ewing, Illinois  
Kelli Retallick, Wisconsin  
JanLee Rowlett, Tennessee  
Sally Yon, South Carolina

### 2010-2012

Austin Brandt, Iowa  
Shane Clary, Virginia

Lindsey Grimes, Ohio  
Garrett Knebel, Indiana  
Alisha Nord, Minnesota  
Clay Williams, Georgia

### 2009-2011

Britney Creamer, Colorado  
Danielle Foster, Michigan  
Clinton Laflin, Kansas  
Cody Smith, Missouri  
Jennifer Ann Smith, Texas  
Jaclyn Upperman, Pennsylvania

### 2008-2010

Ashlyn Carter, Indiana  
Christopher Cassidy, Illinois  
Robert Myers, Oregon  
Andrew Rogen, South Dakota  
Kirbe Schnoor, California  
Lindsay Waugh, Minnesota

### 2007-2009

Ann Blumer, South Carolina  
Brandon Creamer, Colorado  
Trey Davis, Georgia  
Bridget Driscoll, Iowa  
Walt Stinson, Tennessee  
Mallory Trosper, Missouri

### 2006-2008

Justin Brosey, Ohio  
Joseph Epperly, Virginia  
Andrew Foster, Michigan  
Dana May, Wisconsin  
Rebecca Tokach, North Dakota  
Kara Wilson, Indiana

### 2005-2007

Zebadiah Gray, Iowa  
Kristen Oaks, Louisiana  
Amanda Schnoor, California  
Alex Tolbert, Georgia  
Tracee Veenstra, Minnesota  
Kindra Wood, Alabama

### 2004-2006

Curtis Bryant, Maryland  
Casey Jentz, Wisconsin  
Alicia Kramer, Illinois  
Heath McPherson, North  
Carolina  
Renee Thelen, Michigan  
Jake Tiedeman, Nebraska

### 2003-2005

Kyle Conley, Missouri  
Tyler Grissom, Oklahoma  
Jarrett Martin, Arkansas  
Jeana Sankey, Kansas  
Joanna Olson, Texas  
Jennifer Ourso, Louisiana

### 2002-2004

Jennifer Beck, North Carolina  
Cortney Collins, West Virginia  
Jamie Hower, Pennsylvania  
Jamie King, Ohio  
Trevor Kuipers, Illinois  
Amy Wolfrey, Maryland

### 2001-2003

Mercedes Danekas, California  
Brian Howell, Indiana

John McCurry, Kansas  
Lana Myers, Louisiana  
Lacey Robinson, Missouri  
Brandon Walker, Georgia

### 2000-2002

Brittney Burns, Illinois  
Heath Johnson, Mississippi  
Tom Patterson, Montana  
Jessica Sawyer, Nebraska  
Ryan Sweeney, Michigan  
Christy Walther, Virginia

### 1999-2001

Brandon Douglas, Arkansas  
Miranda Grissom, Oklahoma  
Jamie Meyer, Kansas  
Sy Olson, Texas  
Allison Porter, Georgia  
Sonya Smith, Tennessee

### 1998-2000

Julie Dameron, Illinois  
John Melton, Virginia  
Melissa Pickrell, Kentucky  
Garrett Pohlman, Nebraska  
Julie Scarlett, North Carolina  
Lindsey Trosper, Missouri

### 1997-1999

Diana Covell, Maryland  
Amy Dyar, Alabama  
J.W. McCurry, Kansas  
Rhonda Nida, Oklahoma  
Hutch Porter, Georgia

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Angus breed, she has found a way to serve the Association through her event-planning business, helping book facilities for events like the National Angus Convention & Trade Show.

Stickley served on the NJAB that began the now popular Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference.

Stickley says she has continued to be an ambassador for the Angus breed, whether through telling someone about CAB, or staying closely connected with her father's herd. She says it's something that "is in her blood" and will never go away.

"Looking back, the green jacket is a sense of pride that you reached that goal and were able to be involved with a great organization in which the friendships are forever," she says.

The connections she made during her time serving the Angus breed are important to Stickley and drew her back to the show for the reunion.

"It's fun to see people and their kids that you still remember," she says. "It's also great to see the growth of the organization and the opportunities available to these kids."

During their time reconnecting and reminiscing, the past board members took time to invest in the future. Through donations and purchases of raffle tickets being sold by the current NJAB, the past members raised about \$300 to help ensure there will be another 35 years of greatness for those who will wear the green coat.



▶ Current NJAB members Jacob Heimsoth and Michael Cropp unroll raffle tickets for past members to purchase in support of the program.



## 35 years of NJAB directors CONTINUED FROM PAGE 209

Janelle Sommers, Indiana

### 1996-1998

Leigh Ann Campbell, Kentucky  
Andrew Donnell, Tennessee  
Jarrod Gillig, Missouri  
Moriah Olson, Texas  
Brent Scarlett, North Carolina  
Dru Uden, Nebraska

### 1995-1997

Shantelle Andrews, California  
Suzanne Berry, Alabama  
John Dickinson, Illinois  
Monica Feeser, Maryland  
Jennifer Hawkins, Michigan  
Bob Stevenson, Montana

### 1994-1996

Melissa Bush, South Dakota  
Wynn Dalton, Virginia  
Will Grote, Texas  
Matt Perrier, Kansas  
Scott Pohlman, Nebraska  
Jill Sommers, Indiana

### 1993-1995

Brian Brockman, Missouri  
William Donnell, Tennessee  
Sarah Lynn Hill, Ohio  
Heather Kalino, California  
Alan Miller, Illinois  
Chad Rotenberger, North Dakota

### 1992-1994

Greg Bobo, Texas

Kimberly Bowen, Arkansas

Jennifer Carrico, Iowa  
Ashley Davis, Kentucky  
Shandell Kinnett, Oklahoma  
Leslie Krehbiel, Kansas

### 1991-1993

Julia Brown, Indiana  
Jeff Dameron, Illinois  
Lori Franklin, Colorado  
Dianne McGiveron, Wisconsin  
Cara Pascalar, Oregon  
Tamra Vollmer, North Dakota

### 1990-1992

Bryan Bouldin, Missouri  
Kellie Coonrad, Washington  
Kyla Hall, Nebraska  
Tim Jeffries, Kentucky  
Deirdre Lawson, Oklahoma  
Cheremie Viator, Louisiana

### 1989-1991

Lori Cash, Pennsylvania  
Lisa Hawkins, Michigan  
Bill Hollis, Illinois  
Anne Jones, Virginia  
Susan Patton, Indiana  
Billy Reeder, Tennessee

### 1988-1990

John Bell, Kentucky  
Joe Davis, Mississippi  
Kurt Greiman, Iowa  
Leslie Morelock, Arkansas  
Mark Moxley, Maryland  
John Toledo, California

### 1987-1989

Christine Simmons, Michigan  
Cheryl Hutchins, Ohio  
Garth Gardiner, Kansas  
Steve Patton, Indiana  
Kelli Meged, Montana  
KayDee Catlin, Washington

### 1986-1988

Chad Cash, Pennsylvania  
Russell Coon, Missouri  
Kelli Crossland, Arkansas  
Christy Dameron, Illinois  
Jim Jasper, Kentucky  
Kurt Olson, Iowa

### 1985-1987

Nick Brost, Indiana  
Julie Coonrad, Washington  
Cindy Houck, Kansas  
Richard Jenkins, Tennessee  
Beth McDonald, Alabama  
Cliff Simmons, Michigan

### 1984-1986

Kenley Conner, Kentucky  
Alan Kapp, Missouri  
Susan McMahon, Arkansas  
Jay Pfeiffer, Oklahoma  
Mary Ellen Shaw, Wisconsin  
Doug Stevenson, Montana

### 1983-1985

Leroy Billman, Ohio  
Lisa Bohlen, Michigan  
Gayle Hunt, Indiana  
Bruce Kiesewetter, Illinois

Malcolm Landry, Louisiana

Jeff Neumeyer, Idaho

### 1982-1984

Jud Baldrige, Nebraska  
Rick Blanchard, California  
Diane Krause, Pennsylvania  
Mark Kreul, Wisconsin  
Guy Laflin, Kansas  
Cary Ann Smith, Kentucky

### 1981-1983

Barb Baylor, Illinois  
Eddie Donahoe, Mississippi  
Vic Grissom, Oklahoma  
Sheryl Knop, Iowa  
Jean Neumeyer, Idaho  
Karen Utrecht, Ohio

### 1980-1982

Tracy Crose, California  
Sharon Diuble, Michigan  
Angie Hunt, Indiana  
Bruce Kroeker, Kansas  
Julie McMahon, Arkansas  
Jodie Wallace, West Virginia

### 1980-1981

Tracy Chapman, Georgia  
John Kiesewetter, Illinois  
George McDonald, Tennessee  
Dale Rains, Pennsylvania  
Brad Staley, Iowa  
Mark Wyble, Louisiana

Source: [www.njaa.info](http://www.njaa.info)