

# New Staff Members for Association, API

PR Department adds three, API welcomes one new staff members.

by *Crystal Albers & Linda Robbins*

The American Angus Association public relations and communications (PR) team announces the hiring of three new staff members, while Angus Productions Inc. (API) welcomes a new associate editor.

**Jena Thompson** is the new assistant director of PR. A native of Marshfield, Mo., where she was raised on her family's farm, 5T's Angus, she grew up showing cattle through the local 4-H program.

Thompson then combined her love of cattle and writing through the agricultural journalism program at the University of Missouri (MU)—Columbia, graduating in December 2009. She began her career as a communications and multimedia specialist with the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Jefferson City, Mo.

**Derrick Collins** is the new media specialist for the PR department. He will be focusing on video/television projects, as well as designing print projects. A native of Saint Joseph, Mo., Collins studied graphic design and video production, graduating in 2011 with a bachelor's degree in cinema-television

from Regent University in Virginia Beach, Va.

His design work encompasses both still images and video, and he particularly enjoys it when the two collide in motion graphics. While at Regent he served as an assistant in the marketing department.

**Carrie Gilliam** is the American Angus Association's new communications coordinator. A native of Washington, Kan., Gilliam will play a critical role in the expansion of the Association's communications efforts. She is a 2011 graduate of Kansas State University, with a degree in agricultural communications and journalism. She also received minors in leadership studies, animal sciences and industry, and public relations. While there, Gilliam served as an editor for the university newspaper, College of Agriculture Student Council president and was a member of the Alpha Chi Omega sorority.

**Kasey Miller**, API's new associate editor, earned a bachelor's degree in May 2010 in ag communications and journalism from

Texas A&M University (TAMU)—College Station. She will complete a master's degree in agricultural leadership, education and communications there in December of this year.

Miller served as editor-in-chief for *AgriLeader* magazine at TAMU in 2010, and served as a legislative intern for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture in Washington, D.C., in 2009.

She is a mezzo soprano and was a member of the TAMU Women's Chorus, serving as ambassador and executive board member while traveling to four concerts in Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia during the 2007-2008 school year.

Miller has an interest in international agriculture, having studied sustainable ecotourism and natural resource conservation in Costa Rica, Fiji and Australia.

She has a 14-year background in the showring, starting at age 6. She showed for 10 years in 4-H and was an active member of FFA for four years.

