



# Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights. Compiled by Kasey Brown.

## Becoming part of 'The Business Breed'

*Some people say they cannot wait to grow up, while others say they never want to. Whichever side you stand on, it is neither here nor there, because you are a National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) member. Whether you realize it or not, you are being shaped for a brighter future.*

### A junior's perspective

*"Life is a gift, and it offers us the privilege, opportunity and responsibility to give something back by becoming more."*

— Tony Robbins

When I hear this quote, I think of the NJAA and how it is a gift to all juniors, giving them opportunities to be more and to become part of "The Business Breed." If you had asked me to relate to that quote a few years ago, that would not have been my answer. To be honest, when starting in this association I had no idea why Angus was considered the business breed.

I decided to look through the eyes of a current young Montana Angus junior and ask her, "What does 'Angus, the Business Breed' mean to you?" The answer, without a second thought, was "cows."

As we visited, this junior explained that she likes showing, calves and meeting new friends. As far as this junior was concerned, there is no business involved; it is just something she likes to do. Surprisingly, that is how I felt when I was her age. For many young juniors, "Angus, the Business Breed"

has little resonance in their daily life.

However, now that I am in my last few years of being an NJAA member, I have begun to see the building blocks that the NJAA creates to help members become part of the business breed.

As I see it, working on the ranch, showing Angus cattle and internships provide training and develop skills necessary to be successful in the business world. Juniors learn honesty, responsibility and a hard work ethic. All those attributes are valued in the business world.

Another favorite of most

is raising calves. In the business world, calves are considered a product, and our industry is all about producing a quality product for consumers. New technology and strategies developed by the American Angus Association have provided the NJAA with new educational programs to assist our junior members in creating a better product.

The last of these favorite things is meeting new friends, which is called networking when you grow up. Making connections across the country, like many of our junior Angus members do, gives them the opportunity to market their skills, create a career and promote the Angus industry.

The American Angus Association gives all juniors the privilege to be a part of the NJAA. Without their support and help, there would be no junior program. From my experience, it is the same at the state level. Without the Montana Angus Association investing in our youth, the Montana Junior Angus Association would not exist. Many young juniors do not see the business picture; they



Jena Wagner

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## Atlantic Nat'l Regional Preview Jr. Angus Show, May 25, Timonium, Md.

► Atlantic National Merit Award Scholarship winners are (from left) **Bailey Harsh** and **Will Harsh**, both of Radnor, Ohio; **Lindsay Upperman**, El Dorado, Kan.; **Danielle Foster**, Niles, Mich.; **Daniel McFarland**, Keithville, La.; **Michael Cropp**, Damascus, Md.; **Cory Watt**, Iva, S.C.; Paul Hill, presenter; **Robert Velisek**, Gaithersburg, Md., who also won the Greg Krueger Scholarship; **Lauren Grimes**, Hillsboro, Ohio; and **Betsie Michael** and **Alan Miller**, scholarship committee members.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

just know they are having a great time. Little do they realize the NJAA is preparing today's youth to be tomorrow's leaders. Juniors, please thank the ones who got you here for the support that makes it possible for all of us to be a part of an amazing breed association.

— **Jena Wagner, Montana**

## Angus juniors recognized as BEST winners

The 2012-2013 Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) BEST (Beef Exhibitor Show Total) Program wrapped up on May 11 with its annual awards banquet hosted at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus.

"The banquet is a time to celebrate the many achievements of our BEST participants, both in and out of the showring," says Stephanie Sindel, BEST coordinator. "Each participant is recognized for their hard work by family, friends and BEST supporters alike."

Several representatives from program sponsors Bob Evans Farms, Burroughs Frazier Farms, Farm Credit Mid-America, Green Oak Farms, M.H. Eby, Ohio Farm Bureau Federation and Weaver Livestock were on hand to help present awards totaling more than \$35,000 in belt buckles, furniture, show materials and other awards.

This year's BEST program featured 16 sanctioned shows that weaved its way across the state. More than 525 head of market animals and heifers were shown, and 355 youth participated.

The champion Angus heifer was exhibited by **Lydia Dance** of Hillsboro, Ohio.

Champion Hill Georgina 8156 is a Feb. 2012 daughter of SAV Prosperity 9131 bred by Champion Hill, Bidwell, Ohio. Lydia is the daughter of Henry and Barbara Dance.

Reserve champion Angus heifer and fourth overall novice heifer belongs to **Hadley LeVan** of Woodstock, Ohio. His heifer, SSF Blackcap Style 2282, is a Feb. 2012 daughter of Silveira's Style 9303. Ethan Whiteside of Queenstown, Md., bred the heifer. Hadley is the son of Louis and Melissa LeVan.

The champion Angus steer was exhibited by **Jessica Lohr**, Bucyrus, Ohio. Z373 is sired by BG Bold Look 373W and bred by Boysel Cattle Co., East Liberty, Ohio. Jessica is the daughter of Andy and Tonya Lohr.

**Will Harsh**, Radnor, Ohio, exhibited the reserve champion Angus steer. RF Buckeye 1227 is sired by Rito 9FB3 of 5H11 Fullback and bred by Paige Thomas, Clinton, Ill. Will is the son of Tim and Elizabeth Harsh.

**Michelle Bockelman**, Napoleon, Ohio, exhibited the fifth overall bred-and-owned heifer. DBA Aimee 1244 is an April 2012 daughter of BC Eagle Eye 110-7. Michelle is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

## Atlantic National Royalty Reception a success

The Atlantic National Royalty Reception was May 24 in Timonium, Md. The event was sponsored by the Alan Miller Family of Prairie View Farms in Gridley, Ill. The Indiana Angus Auxiliary hosted the event. Carrie Wiley, Indiana Angus Queen, introduced the attendees and Cortney Hill-Dukehart Cates, president of the American Angus Auxiliary, conducted a game of Angus Bingo. Following a light lunch, Miss American Angus Esther McCabe told of her experiences since her crowning last November. Each queen, princess and sweetheart was presented with a travel bag.



► Attendees of the Atlantic National Royalty Reception were (front row, from left) **Claudia Hissong**, Greencastle, Pa.; **Jade Zimmerman**, Reinholds, Pa.; **Carrie Wiley**, Marysville, Ind.; **Esther McCabe**, Elk City, Kan.; **Savannah Brauning**, Finksburg, Md.; **Jessica Herr**, Willow Street, Pa.; (back row, from left) **Kayla Widerman**, Good Hope, Ill.; **Keegan Cassidy**, Normal, Ill.; **Alexis Cash**, York, Pa.; **Andrea Foore**, Seven Valleys, Pa.; **Kayce Myers**, Wellsville, Pa.; **Madison Weaver**, Coatesville, Pa.; **Carly Watt**, Iva, S.C.; **Ruby Monn**, Shippensburg, Pa.; and **Catie Hope** and **Helena St. Clair**, both of Berryville, Va.

## Angus Juniors 'Raise the Bar' at Virginia Tech

The future of the American Angus Association is bright. That's because Angus juniors from across the country are participating in events to continue learning about the industry and expanding their leadership potential. National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members met May 3-5 at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., to participate in a Raising the Bar conference.

"The Raising the Bar conferences allow Angus juniors to interact outside of the showring and learn about more in-depth beef industry issues," says Robin Ruff, American Angus Association director of junior activities. "These opportunities give them a chance to expand their knowledge outside of the everyday classroom."

Throughout the weekend, 24 Angus junior leaders, officers and advisors from seven state junior Angus associations toured Virginia Tech and area Angus operations, heard from industry experts, participated in leadership-training workshops and spent an evening bowling on campus.

Participants made stops at the Kentland Farm, where they learned about feeding different hay types during a cow's breeding cycle and fetal sexing; Daltons on the Sycamore, where they toured the Olde Dominion Agricultural Complex; and Big Spring Mill, a fifth-generation feed and flour mill.

On the Virginia Tech campus, juniors met with the Virginia Tech Beef Leadership Council about the importance of beef advocacy; heard from agricultural professor Paige Pratt about the importance of evaluating cattle with expected progeny differences (EPDs); and met with David Kohl about the optimistic future of agriculture.



► Angus youth gathered at the 2013 NJAA Raising the Bar Officers Training May 3-5 in Blacksburg, Va. Twenty-four officers and advisors from seven state junior Angus associations participated in the course, geared toward building stronger leaders while forming important regional relationships.



## ▶ NEXT GENERATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25

the daughter of Mark and Patty Bockelman. A belt buckle was awarded to these Angus juniors. The case for their belt buckle was sponsored by the Ohio Angus Association.

### Angus juniors successful at Southwestern Livestock Show Meat Judging Contest

The Southwestern Livestock Show Meat

Judging Contest was Feb. 3 at Frontier Meats in Fort Worth, Texas. In total, 47 contestants from eight universities and colleges participated in the A-Division contest. One hundred and six individuals from 12 universities participated in the Senior Division contest. Angus juniors placed in the top 10 of both divisions. **Garrett Kroeger**, Clarendon College, placed fourth in the

A-Division. In the senior division, **Aeriel Belk**, Colorado State University, placed second, and **Colton Campbell**, Texas Tech University, placed eighth.

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**Editor's Note:** This column is compiled by Associate Editor Kasey Brown. To submit your "Next Generation" item, email [kbrown@angusjournal.com](mailto:kbrown@angusjournal.com) or call 816-383-5277.

### ▶ Michigan Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 10, Jackson



▶Michigan Jr. Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell, president; **Kollin Johnson**, Quincy, vice president; **Rachel Reid**, secretary, and **Katie Reid**, awards chairperson, both of Eaton Rapids; (standing, from left) **Kavina Johnson**, Quincy; **Katrena Klopfenstein**, Galien; **Amanda Kosal**, Deckerville; **Sterling Reichenbach**, Bath; **Dylan Kennedy**, Nashville; and **Jack Reid**, Eaton Rapids.



▶Michigan Jr. Angus Ass'n premier exhibitors are (seated, from left) **Sterling Reichenbach**, Bath, second; **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell, third; **Dylan Kennedy**, Nashville, fourth; **Kollin Johnson**, Quincy, fifth; and (standing) **Amanda Kosal**, Deckerville, and **Justin Kennedy**, Nashville, both honorable mentions. Not pictured is **Patti Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, first.



▶Michigan Certificate of Achievement award winners are (seated, from left) **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell; **Kollin Johnson**, Quincy; **Rachel Reid** and **Katie Reid**, both of Eaton Rapids; (standing, from left) **Kavina Johnson**, Quincy; **Katrena Klopfenstein**, Galien; **Dee Anne Merriman**, Lowell; **Sterling Reichenbach**, Bath; **Amanda Kosal**, Deckerville; **Dylan Kennedy**, Nashville; **Jack Reid**, Eaton Rapids; and **Justin Kennedy**, Nashville.



▶Michigan Jr. Angus Ass'n premier breeders are (seated, from left) **Sterling Reichenbach**, Bath, first; **Dylan Kennedy**, Nashville, second; **Kollin Johnson**, Quincy, fourth; **Justin Kennedy**, Nashville, fifth; and (standing) **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell, honorable mention.

▶Right: Michigan Angus Royalty are (from left) **Sterling Reichenbach**, Bath, 2013 Miss Michigan Angus queen; and **Katie Reid**, Eaton Rapids, 2012 Miss Michigan Angus queen.



▶Left: **Kendra Merriman** (left), Lowell, receives the 2013 Michigan Jr. Angus Ass'n Outstanding Senior Member award; and **Katrena Klopfenstein** (right), Galien, receives the 2013 Michigan Junior Angus Ass'n Outstanding Junior Member award.

▣ **Mississippi Angus Ass'n Meeting & Banquet, May 3, Raymond**



►Mississippi Angus Auxiliary representatives presented Achievement Awards to several juniors. Pictured are (from left) Emma Collins, presenting; **Rickey Cooper**, Florence; Melanie Kiani, presenting; **Gabrielle Simpson**, Tupelo; **Kristopher Beatty** and **Nicholas Beatty**, both of Pulaski; **Rylie Melancon**, Woodville; and Pam Cooper, presenting.



►These juniors received cash awards and belt buckles for their champions at the Mississippi State Fair Jr. Angus Show and the Dixie National Jr. Angus Show. Pictured are (from left) **John Davis**, New Albany; **Brad Holland**, Mount Olive; **Philip Ball**, Terry; and **Rylie Melancon**, Woodville.



►**Ashton Gandy** (right), Potts Camp, receives the Mississippi Angus Auxiliary scholarship from Joe Davis. 