



Next Generation

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

Real life economics

You could say that I am intrigued by information. From my part-time job at Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), where I collect feedlot performance data, to my course of study in agriculture economics, I am surrounded by numbers and prices. My role on the job and in the classroom is to organize and make sense of all these numbers. What I have found is more valuable than trends and predictions; I have found that economics holds some pretty powerful life lessons.

Specialization

Specialization is the theory that if firms focus on producing what they are good at, then the entire market improves. For example, in the beef industry each segment, from seedstock producer to grocery retailer, has unique practices and goals, and they all enhance the value of the end product.



Meghan Blythe

To me, specialization is the definition of teamwork. It would be unprofitable and inefficient if every operation had to grow, feed and harvest their cattle by themselves. Similarly, it doesn't make sense for an individual to carry the weight of a team. If each team member focuses on his or her strengths, then the entire team improves and is able to accomplish more.

Interaction

The interaction of supply and demand is the most recognized economic theory.

If more consumers demand hamburger, then the price of hamburger will increase. This high price of hamburger will result in a higher price for cattle. More ranchers will sell their cattle in hopes of getting that higher price and making more profit. But as more cattle are sold and harvested, more hamburger is produced and the price decreases.

Whether you followed that example or not, there is no denying the consequences of a simple decision. Be aware that your decisions affect others. Choose to be a positive influence and a good role model.

Value of information

A large part of economics is math. Problems were easier to solve when I was provided more information, and I was more confident in my answer when the problem contained fewer unknown variables.

Unfortunately, in the real world, decisions contain more unknown variables than my homework. But lucky for Angus producers, we do not need to make these tough decisions blind. The American Angus

Association has the largest breed database available. It provides producers tools to help make decisions regarding genetic selection and progeny performance. As a future Angus producer, I really value the availability and accuracy of the information provided by the Association.

— Meghan Blythe, Kansas

High school students participate in K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy

Twenty high school students participated in the Kansas State University (K-State) Animal Sciences Leadership Academy June 6-9 in Manhattan. Junior Angus member Reid Shipman, Manhattan, Kan., attended.

Participants were selected based on school activities, grade point average and community involvement through an

► Minnesota Jr. Angus Ass'n Field Day, Fergus Falls, June 16



► Emily Scholtz (right), Comfrey, receives the Bronze and Silver awards from Vern Frey, American Angus Association regional manager.

► North Dakota Jr. Angus Ass'n Field Day, Jamestown, June 2



► Kaitlin Geyer (right), Lisbon, N.D., receives the Bronze and Silver awards from Frey.

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► **Eastern Regional Jr. Angus Show**, Timonium, Md., June 22-24



► **Nathan Butler** (left), Midland, Va., receives Bronze and Silver Awards and **Morgan Alexander** (center), Berryville, Va., receives the Bronze Award from Robin Ruff, Association director of junior activities.

► **The All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Jr. Show**, Louisville, Ky., June 16



► **Destiny McCauley** (right), Bowling Green, Fla., receives the Bronze and Silver awards from Jennifer Ewing, NJAA director.

► **Kentucky Jr. Angus Preview Show**, Louisville, June 14



► **Benjamin Conner** (right), Hodgenville, receives the Ladies of Bluegrass Auxiliary scholarship from Brandy Kiser, Kentucky Angus Auxiliary vice president.

application process. Three K-State students helped with the academy as counselors. The four-day event gave the students an opportunity to evaluate real-life livestock situations, gain familiarity with college life, explore livestock-related companies in the industry, and tour many facilities within the animal sciences industry in Kansas, according to Kristine Clowers, youth livestock coordinator in K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

As part of the academy, the group toured the Cargill Innovation Center, Mid-America Ag Network, and Grandview Equestrian Center — all in Wichita, Kan. — in order to give participants a glance at where their future could possibly lie after college graduation, Clowers said.

"Youth are not always aware of the different avenues they can take in the livestock industry, and by seeing firsthand what these companies do, the participants can

now broaden their future plans and goals," she added.

In Manhattan, the students toured the K-State College of Veterinary Medicine and worked on current event projects, such as "Pink Slime"—Lean, Finely Textured Beef; the 2011 U.S. Department of Labor Child Labor Rule; Anesthesia Use on Minor Farm Surgeries; and Rising Feed Costs. The students

presented their topic at a formal reception in front of three K-State faculty members, Livestock and Meat Industry Council (LMIC) executive members, and their families. The presentations were evaluated and scored based on content, delivery, knowledge of the topic and ability to answer questions. The LMIC sponsored the academy.

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► **Washington Jr. Angus Field Day**, Thorp, May 19



► **Shelby Burrus** (left), Tacoma, is the 2012-2013 Washington Angus queen. Also pictured is **Jessica Schmidt**, Othello, 2011-2012 Washington Angus queen.



► Officers and directors of the Washington Jr. Angus Ass'n are (from left) **J.D. Rosman**, Creston, vice president; **Cassandra Garcia**, Snohomish, secretary-treasurer; **Shelby Burrus**, Tacoma, Eastside representative; **Callie Hanson**, Newport, Westside representative; and **Jeremy Black**, Tenino, president.

► **Ohio Angus Ass'n Jr. Preview Show**, Tiffin, June 9



► Qualifying to represent Ohio at the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in Louisville, Ky., are (from left) **Lincoln Deitrick**, Zanesville, alternate; **Lauren Grimes**, Hillsboro, representative; **Shyla Kreager**, Newark, representative; and **Megan Hunker**, Bellevue, alternate.



► **Grimes** (left) and **Kreager** receive Ohio Angus Auxiliary scholarships.



► **Sarah Wogan** (left), Hebron, and **Kreager** receive Bronze and Silver awards.

▶ NEXT GENERATION

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Illinois 4-H Livestock Judging Contest awards individuals and teams

Members of 4-H from across Illinois came to the University of Illinois Stock Pavilion June 18 for the Illinois 4-H Livestock Judging Contest.

Participants judged eight classes of livestock, including three beef cattle classes, three swine classes, a sheep class and a boer goat class. Animals are judged based on performance data and visual appraisal, including the animals' structural correctness, balance, volume and muscle.

Dan Jennings, extension specialist in 4-H youth development, animal systems, said, "This is an excellent opportunity for participants to develop communication, problem-solving and decision-making skills as they learn how to analyze data. Junior participants are just beginning to develop these skills, so we do questions with them, but they're not required to do oral reasons."

Junior Angus member **Katelyn Engel** of Knox County was 10th in the junior division.

"The competition in the senior division is a little more intense. Participants have to prepare oral reasons in three classes — cattle, swine, and sheep or goats — and defend their placings in those classes," said Jennings.

▶ Atlantic National Queen's Brunch, Timonium, Md., May 26



▶ The Maryland Angus Women's Club hosted the Atlantic National Queen's Brunch. Miss American Angus **Brooke Harward** shared her experiences traveling to shows, sales and livestock events since her crowning last November. This is the second year the brunch has been sponsored by Copper Creek Canyon Cattle Co.'s Randy Hahn and Dean Haggard. Pictured are (back row, from left) **LeAnn Harward**, North Carolina princess; **Morgan Alexander**, Virginia queen; **Carly Watt**, South Carolina queen; **Andrea Hosto**, Illinois queen; **Kate Livingston**, Pennsylvania queen; (seated, from left) **Catherine Harward**, North Carolina queen; **Emily Velisek**, Maryland queen; **Savannah Brauning**, Maryland princess; and **Keegan Cassidy**, Illinois princess.

"It can be kind of intimidating," he continued, "but it's probably the best thing we do in the contest. They learn great

communication skills, and they really have to develop a photographic memory."

The top individuals will go on to compete at a second livestock judging competition. The next round will determine the top individuals who will compete at the National 4-H Livestock Judging Contest during the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky.

Angus interns at Accelerated Genetics

Kyle Musfeldt, Coon Rapids, Iowa, and **Morgan Meisenheimer**, Mount Airy, Md., are interning with Accelerated Genetics this summer. Musfeldt, an animal science major at Iowa State University, is working in the Sales and Services Department.

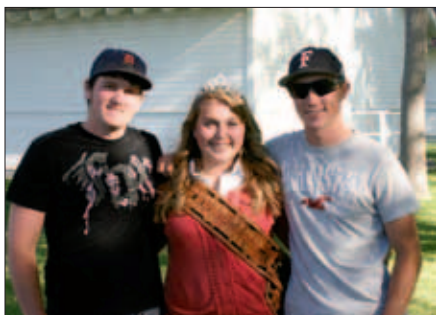
▶ Northwest Regional Preview Jr. Angus Show, Filer, Idaho, June 16



▶ **Ashley Cox** (left), Eagle Point, Ore., and **Corrie Falleur** (right), Gearhart, Ore., won supreme showmanship honors. Also pictured is **Shelby Burris**, Washington Angus queen, presenting.



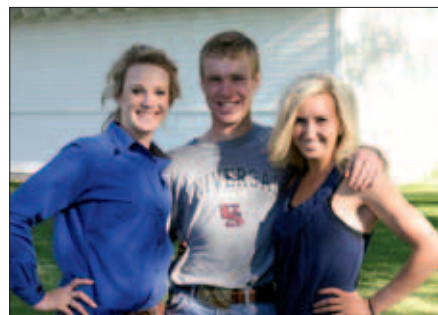
▶ **Anne Schulthies**, Hansen, Idaho, will serve as Idaho Jr. Angus Ass'n queen.



▶ Idaho Jr. Angus Ass'n officers are (from left) **Bridon Curtis**, secretary, and **Lauren Casdorff**, vice president, both of Twin Falls; and **Matthew Malson**, Parma, president.



▶ Oregon Jr. Angus Ass'n officers are (from left) **Katelyn McCoy**, La Grande, Ore., president; **Cole Page**, Kalama, Wash., vice president; and **Ashley Cox**, Eagle Point, Ore., secretary.



▶ Northwest Regional Jr. Angus Ass'n officers are (from left) **Katelyn McCoy**, La Grande, Ore., president; **Kyle Bratton**, Caldwell, Idaho, secretary; and **Shane Kerner**, Weiser, Idaho, vice president.

Meisenheimer, a double major in agricultural communications and animal science at Oklahoma State University, is working in the Marketing Communications Department.

Georgia junior Angus members honored by Georgia Jr. Livestock Foundation

Four junior Angus members were recognized by the Georgia Jr. Livestock

Foundation (GJLF) in its summer newsletter for their success at the 2012 Georgia Jr. National. **Gibson Priest**, Cartersville, Ga., owned the third overall heifer and won \$1,500 from the GJLF. **Mark Lents**, Chatsworth, Ga., exhibited the fifth overall heifer and won \$500 from GJLF. **Jonathan Mobley**, Moultrie, Ga., exhibited the reserve grand champion steer and won \$4,000 from GJLF. Finally, **Callie Akins**, Nashville, Ga.,

exhibited the fifth overall steer and won \$1,000 from the GJLF.

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Editor's Note: This column is compiled by Associate Editor Kasey Miller. To submit your "Next Generation" item, email kaseymiller@angusjournal.com or call 816-383-5277.

► Iowa Angus Summer Jr. Show, Grinnell, June 16



► Qualifying to represent Iowa at the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest in Louisville, Ky., are (from left) **Lauren Barker**, Monticello, alternate; **Cole Greiman**, Garner, representative; **Weston Brandt**, Corning, representative; and **Cody Klendworth**, Walker, alternate.



► **Connor Holvoet** (right), Wever, Iowa, receives Bronze and Silver awards from **Wes Tiemann**, American Angus Association regional manager.