



Next Generation

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

Invest in your future

Taking early action in self-investment can be a daunting task, but it shouldn't cause any uneasiness. Typically, youth see finance, networking and educational investments as out of their control because of the I-don't-know-where-to-start attitude. I firmly believe the opportunity for young people to invest at an earlier age results in many forms of prosperity. Investments at a young age include experiences, education, skills, finance and general knowledge. Constant commitment to an investment puts you on the path to a successful and rewarding life. Nonetheless, capitalizing on such personal investments often requires balance and sacrifice of conflicting events.

Where to start

For our junior members, personal investments made outside the classroom will often have to be balanced with experiences



Will Fiske

inside the classroom. Share your aspirations with family and friends; they can help you best weigh your options, and give structure and clear direction.

Let's take a look at this investment idea and make some very creative, but sensible applications for a younger generation. It requires a little bending of the traditional investment mind-set, and you'll see it's nothing new, but can have the same results. It doesn't involve pure monetary investment from a traditional investment sense, because at our young age, *we don't have money*. Rather, it's making the most of the numerous opportunities that exist.

- Establish a checking/savings account.
- Take a personal finance workshop or short course.
- Take an investment course.
- Maintain self-discipline by being frugal with purchases.
- Remember, there is no better time than the present.
- The best advice to remedy procrastination is to work on a task for an initial 15 minutes, then you can do something fun. When you're 15 minutes in, you will tend to keep working on it.
- Many economists believe that while a junior has little to invest, you have little to lose; therefore, make the most of the moment and invest now.

Venturing into and capitalizing on opportunity investments often requires commitment, balance and sacrifice, but don't let this push you away. So many opportunities present themselves! Look at an opportunity as an investment.

Opportunities are investments

The opportunities to invest within our National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) are many, and you don't have to be in your 40s to invest in them. In addition to all of the NJAA offerings (educational trips, leadership conferences, fundraisers, scholarships, cattle shows and developing livestock herds), endless opportunities are available to network with major stakeholders and leaders within our industry.

Feed and livestock supply companies, livestock marketing firms, universities, government agencies, agricultural cooperatives, and animal health and development companies are good places to start networking and forming lifelong relationships.

This networking could result in future contacts for special scholarship and program offerings, and monetary investment, employment and commodity marketing opportunities (buying or selling). This could mean some tangible money for you in the future!

You can see there are opportunities for junior members (without deep pockets) to make major investments at a young age for major benefits in the future. As the saying goes, "no risk — no reward." Just remember to start young and take the risk, because you can!

Investing in yourself opens the door to a world of advantages. One of the biggest is time, because time enables your investments to accumulate. Nevertheless, the financial returns of bettering yourself through personal investments cannot be denied. Establishments such as the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are very supportive of our youth by offering programs specifically designed for offering financial assistance to young people who wish to be successful in agriculture.

Shane Kerner, one of this year's six new board directors, laid the financial foundation of her current cattle operation with a Rural Youth Loan. Shane is just one of many juniors and American Angus Association members who have found success by taking advantage of such an opportunity.

With the ever-increasing costs of higher education and constant economy fluctuations, it's never too early for youth to

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Visit the NJAA web site
at www.njaa.info.

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▶ West Virginia Beef Expo, April 12, Weston



▶ Will Mayfield (center), American Angus Association regional manager, presents sisters **Kylea Arnold** (left) and **Kelsea Arnold**, both of Horner, their Bronze and Silver awards. Also pictured is their grandfather, **Don Peterson**, Rocking P Farm.

start saving and investing in their financial future. Saving money combined with a commitment to education can really help you “cash in” down the road.

For many years the Angus Foundation has provided Angus youth with ample scholarship opportunities. To apply for scholarships, a junior must complete an application found on the Angus Foundation’s website, www.angusfoundation.org/fdn/ScholarshipsAwards/FdnUndergrad.html.

I personally encourage each junior and young agriculturalist to make the most of the prime environment they are in at home. Financially, there is no better time to start investing in your future than when you’re young; you’re not directly responsible for numerous bills, you have no immediate financial commitments like supporting a family, and you’re constantly surrounded by the support of family and friends.

Exposing yourself in a personal investment often has a feeling of butterflies in your stomach, as if you are sticking your neck out. Believe in yourself to go the extra mile and take the risk to build character and knowledge, because it is these experiences that lay the foundation for a successful future.

— Will Fiske, Virginia

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▶ Texas Jr. Angus Ass’n State Show, June 15-16, Belton



▶ Brad McCurry (left), judge, presents peewee showmanship honors to (from left) **Whittney Bishop**, College Station, second; and **Colter Pohlman**, Hereford, first. Also pictured is **Chanler Havel** (right), Texas Angus Association queen.



▶ McCurry (left) presents junior showmanship honors to (from left) **Emma Nowotny**, New Braunfels, third; **Cutter Pohlman**, Hereford, second; and **Calli West**, Paris, first.



▶ McCurry (left) presents intermediate showmanship honors to (from left) **Brooke Adams**, Terrell, third; **Josh Muehlstein**, Kerrville, second; and **Julie Williams**, Idalou, first.



▶ McCurry (left) presents senior showmanship honors to (from left) **Wade Wells**, Hamilton, third; **Clayton Stevenson**, Brenham, second; and **Justin Clopton**, Covington, first.

▶ Missouri State Fair 4-H Angus Show, Aug. 8, Sedalia



▶ Showmanship winners are (from left) **Cooper Sadowsky**, Eagleville, reserve champion; and **Conrad Behlmann**, Saint Paul, champion.

▶ Missouri State Fair FFA Angus Show, Aug. 8, Sedalia



▶ Showmanship winners are (from left) **Clayton Smith**, West Plains, reserve champion; and **Kimberlee Gieseke**, Holliday, champion.

▶ Northern Illinois Angus Ass’n Preview Show, July 14, Pecatonica



▶ Winning junior showmanship are (from left) **Alyssa Miller**, Lanark, first; **Cheyenne Handsaker**, Pearl City, second; and **Bode Martin**, Oregon, third.



▶ Intermediate showmanship winners are (from left) **Austin Miller**, Lanark, first; **Benjamin Marsh**, Union, second; and **Garrett Handsaker**, Pearl City, third.



▶ Senior showmanship winners are (from left) **Clayton Ruter**, Shannon, first; **Jacqueline Walters**, Hebron, second; and **Kiley Carroll**, Lanark, third.

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Juniors earn Bronze and Silver awards

Lauren Adcock, Moweaqua, Ill.; **Benjamin Conner**, Hodgenville, Ky.; **Gabriela Hernandez** and **Victoria Hernandez**, both of Wellington, Fla.; and **Elizabeth Nixon** and **Robert Nixon III**, both of Rapidan, Va., have earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards, according to Jaclyn Upperman, junior activities director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Adcock, the 21-year-old daughter of Bobby and Sherry Adcock, attends the

University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana and is pursuing a degree in agricultural and consumer economics. Adcock is a member of the NJAA and Illinois Junior Angus Association, where she has served as director, treasurer, first vice president and royalty.

Adcock has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), she served as voting delegate in 2009-2011. She has participated in the 2011 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference and has submitted cattle to Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®).

Connor, the 20-year-old son of Kenley and Dawn Conner, attends the University of Kentucky where he is pursuing a degree in

agricultural education. Conner is a member of the NJAA and the Kentucky Junior Angus Association, where he has served as director and treasurer.

He has participated in local, state and national shows and local showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Conner participated in quiz bowl, team sales, photography and the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off contests.

Conner has submitted cattle to AHIR and consigned cattle to the Mid-Kentucky Angus Association, Great Meadows Angus Association, Central Kentucky Angus Association and the Kentucky Angus Sweepstakes.

Gabriela Hernandez, the 14-year-old daughter of Rusty and Zoila Hernandez, attends Wellington High School and is a member of the NJAA and Florida Junior Angus Association (FJAA), where she has served as royalty and vice president.

She has participated in local, regional, state and national shows and local showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Hernandez participated in team fitting and herdsman contests, and the mentoring program.

Victoria Hernandez, the 18-year-old daughter of Rusty and Zoila Hernandez, attends Wellington High School and is a member of the NJAA and FJAA, where she has served as historian, reporter, voting delegate and princess.

She has participated in local, regional, state and national shows and state showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Hernandez participated in the mentoring program, and photography and herdsman contests.

Elizabeth Nixon, the 19-year-old daughter of Tom and Kim Nixon, attends Butler Community College. Nixon is a member of the NJAA and Virginia Junior Angus Association (VJAA), where she has served as director.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship. At the NJAS, she has participated in photography, team sales, livestock judging, career development, quiz bowl, the All-American CAB Cook-Off contests, and has served as voting delegate.

Robert Nixon III, the 17-year-old son of Tom and Kim Nixon, attends Eastern View High School and is a member of the NJAA and VJAA, where he has served as reporter and director.

He has participated in local and regional showmanship contests and local, regional, state and national shows. At the NJAS, he has participated in team sales, livestock judging, quiz bowl and the All-American CAB Cook-Off contests.

▶ Pennsylvania Angus Breeder's Jr. Show, July 18-19, Huntingdon



▶ **Kyle Livingston**, Dover, received the Golden Pitchfork award. Pictured are (from left) Dale Rains, presenting; Kyle Livingston, recipient; and Chance Rains and Brenda Rains, presenting.



▶ Showmanship was won by (from left) **Alexis O'Boyle**, Newport, champion; and **Claudia Hissong**, Greencastle, reserve champion.



▶ **Freddy Frey** (right), Quarryville, won premier junior breeder. Also pictured is Pennsylvania Princess **Claudia Hissong**.

▶ Bureau County Jr. Field Day, July 28, Princeton, Ill.



▶ **Emily Brooks** (right), Prophetstown, Ill., won top junior showmanship honors. Also pictured is Ella Brooks, holding the plaque.



▶ **Austin Miller**, Lanark, Ill., won top intermediate showmanship honors.



▶ **Kalie Rumbold** (right), Wyanaet, Ill., won top senior showmanship honors. Also pictured is Brooks.

▶ Virginia Jr. Angus Breeders' Show, July 28, Chatham



▶ Brad Bennett (left), judge, presented top showmanship honors to (from left) **Mackenza Muncy**, Staunton, senior champion; **Cody Boden**, Clear Brook, intermediate champion; **Zachary McCall**, Greenville, junior champion; and **Samantha Holdren**, Bedford, novice champion.



▶ **Hunter Wimmer**, Moneta, won the Golden Pitchfork Award.