



Next Generation

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

4-H is not the end

Many of our junior Angus members are also 4-H and FFA members. State fairs all over the country are celebrating their state's agriculture, business, tourism and especially their youth. I, myself, have just shown my last 4-H project at the state fair. Although I did very well with my Angus heifer, I couldn't help but feel a bit sad knowing I wouldn't have that experience to look forward to again. For the past 13 years my family has made the annual trip to the Minnesota State Fair for the 4-H livestock encampment.

A lot of memories

The friends I have made in the campground, barn, arena (even some of the food stands) and counties across the state will last a lifetime.

As I led my heifer into the arena for senior showmanship finals, I realized what an impact these years have made on me. It was the last time I would ever lead cattle into the Hipper Dome.

As I would catch a glance from a friend or a family member in the audience, I knew it was an emotional day for them, too. I have had some wonderful memories in the grand old buildings at the Minnesota State Fair and was among the first to show in the beautiful new Ag Star Arena.

After all the photos and hugs, it was a long walk back to the barn. I knew four good friends were feeling the same way I did that



Luke Nord

day. All of us are from different counties in Minnesota — from one end of the state to the other. We had just finished our last 4-H show at the state fair, we all had shown Angus cattle, we had all seen each other a month earlier in Louisville, and we are all NJAA members!

I was already feeling better when I saw them, knowing we would all be together soon doing what we love. Before we were packed up and ready to load, I was already talking to kids who might want to show one of my heifers. Becoming a leader or just mentoring 4-H members is a way to stay involved with the things and the people we want to be with. This is true in whatever we do; there are so many ways to be involved. With NJAA, when showing is over, there are many ways to be involved and contribute. As we all prepared for departure knowing we were older and this part of our life would soon be memories, we smiled because we knew it wouldn't be long before we would gather at the next Angus event or show.

— Luke Nord, Minnesota

Bronze and Silver awards earned

Morgan Alexander, Berryville, Va., has earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze award, and **Jacob Chicola**, Deville, La., has earned the NJAA Bronze and Silver awards, according to Robin Ruff, junior activities director of the American Angus Association.

Alexander, the 17-year-old daughter of Chuck and Linda Alexander, attends Clarke County High School and is a member of the NJAA and Virginia Junior Angus Association, where she has served as a director.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Alexander participated in the photography, team sales contests and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off. She also participated in the mentoring program in 2006.

She has consigned cattle to the On-Stage Sale and is actively involved with her local 4-H.

Chicola, the 17-year-old son of Chuck and Laina Chicola, attends Buckeye High School and is a member of the NJAA and Louisiana Junior Angus Association, where he has served as a director and secretary.

He has participated in local, state, regional

State Fair of West Virginia Roll of Victory (ROV) Angus Show, Lewisburg, Aug. 13



► Logan Wright, Philippi, receives his Bronze and Silver awards from Will Mayfield, Association regional manager.

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and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Chicola participated in the team sales, quiz bowl, team fitting, photography and Cook-Off contests. He also participated in the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences in 2010 and 2011.

He has submitted data to Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) and consigned cattle to the Louisiana Female Angus Sale.

The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the NJAA Recognition Program that began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders must apply for the awards, then meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving the honors. Applicants are evaluated in areas of junior Angus association activities and leadership; participation in showmanship, contests and shows; using performance testing to improve their herd; and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.



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.

► **Southwestern Wisconsin Classic Angus Show, Lancaster, May 27**



► **Kelli Retallick**, Glen Haven, Wis., receives the Roger Kreul Memorial Award. Pictured are (from left) Mark Kreul; Sue Finley; Kelli Retallick, recipient; Lindsey, Kristi, Garret and Ed Kreul.

► **South Dakota Junior Spotlight Show, Huron, July 28**



► **Kelsey Repenning**, Mitchell, receives her Bronze and Silver awards from Vern Frey, Association regional manager.



► Several juniors received South Dakota Angus Auxiliary scholarships. Pictured are (from left) **Kelsey Repenning**, Mitchell; Jane Green, South Dakota Angus Auxiliary scholarship chairperson; and **Royce Erdmann** and **Reid Erdmann**, both of Leola.