



Next Generation

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

The best gift of all

“We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.” — Winston Churchill

Whether you are a 9-year-old junior starting out your show career or a seasoned third-generation Angus breeder, there is a strong bond that connects us all. No matter what our experience, name or background, Angus people are there for each other because the cattle bind us like family.

Connections

A prime example of this would be more than 20 years ago at the American Angus Association Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky. A young couple had just started out in the Angus industry and was attending the Annual Meeting for the first time. Not knowing but a handful of people from their own state, they felt like new kids on the block.



Sally Yon

This didn't last for long, as Bob Thomas from Oregon came up to this couple at the Angus reception and visited with them like they were newly discovered out-of-town relatives at a big family reunion. Asking their backgrounds and plans in the Angus industry, as well as sharing some advice and kind words of encouragement, a friendship was made.

My parents were that young couple from

South Carolina, and they will not forget the kindness of a stranger from the West. A kind word and a friendly smile can sure go a long way.

This happens every day in our industry, and we as cattle people should always be willing to help someone new. There are countless occasions of new juniors having no idea what to do and someone stepping up to give them a hand. I know there were people for me who were willing to haul my cattle and other juniors' cattle across the country to the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), help me fit and answer questions about showmanship at all times.

I was fortunate enough to have parents who were experienced with junior projects who helped me get started with good cattle that we raised. Some kids don't have this advantage and may start with a single purchased project animal with little sound guidance, simply due to a lack of experience. If you think about it, there is something we can all do to help a young junior in this circumstance.

It's important to remember that we all

have time, talents and resources, and how good of stewards we are of those things is up to us. You may not have money to buy a great show heifer for that junior, but just a little time helping them with showmanship skills or giving some advice on feeding and clipping can make a world of difference. You never know when you might be influencing a junior who could have the passion to become a long-term Angus enthusiast.

While we all love our cattle, it's not just about the cattle. It's also about life skills and helping develop character. I will never forget when I ran for Miss American Angus, and part of our competition included the prepared public speech. This was the first time I had ever delivered a prepared speech to a live audience, with the pressure of being judged while doing so. Needless to say, I was very uncertain of myself and of my delivery skills. Tracey Erickson with Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) let me give my speech to her on a practice run while we were in Louisville and gave me some very helpful advice. She also helped soothe my case of the nerves and gave me the boost of confidence I needed. It meant the world to me for her to take time out of her busy schedule. That was an example of using her talents to help me improve mine, as well as spending one-on-one time with me. Time is a precious commodity, but if we give just a little of it for others, it can make a lasting impression.

The holidays are always a time that we think about family and giving, so it is a natural fit for me to think of my Angus family and all the gifts I have received over the years. As I enter adulthood, it is my hope that I will always remember to give back, whether it is in the form of time, advice or sharing a skill. Our Angus friends are truly a gift, so let's always remember there are new ones to be made.

— Sally Yon, South Carolina

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

New Online Issue of The Scoop Available

The Scoop is an online publication for junior members, written and produced by other junior members.

Thirteen members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) from all corners of the United States wrote stories

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and contributed photographs for the fall 2012 issue of *The Scoop*, an online-only publication for juniors, by juniors. From event coverage of the NJAS to stories about issues influencing the beef and agricultural industries, an array of information is included in this issue, available online at www.njaa.info.

Michaela Clowser, 16, from Milford, Neb., served as the editor-in-chief for the latest issue. Clowser has served on *The Scoop* staff since 2009.

“While working on articles for *The Scoop*, I have been able to conduct amazing interviews with people I never would have had the opportunity to meet,” Clowser says. “My recommendation to all junior Angus members — don’t hesitate to get involved.”

“*The Scoop* is another avenue for juniors to learn more about the organization they are involved in from another junior member’s view,” says Robin Ruff, director of junior activities for the American Angus Association. “What better way for a junior member to read a newspaper that is written in the same junior member’s view? The newspaper is targeted toward youth and written by youth, as they will pick the stories and use the language that their audience will enjoy reading.”

In addition to Clowser, other staff members include Jacob Coon, Bethel, Mo.; Sierra Day, Cerro Gordo, Ill.; Katie Friederichs, Walcott, Iowa; Shane Kerner, Weiser, Idaho; Destiny McCauley, Bowling Green, Fla.; Connor Orrock, Woodford, Va.; Courtney Pooton, Sperryville, Va.; Savannah Schafer, Nehawka, Neb.; Haley Throne, Lexington, Ga.; Sydney Thummel, Sheridan, Mo.; Katlyn Tunstill, Fayetteville, Ark.; and Lindsey Turner, Covington, Tenn.

The Scoop is produced courtesy of the NJAA and the Angus Foundation.

2013 National Beef Ambassadors announced

Erin Morrison (Minnesota), Katie Stroud (California), **Emma Jumper** (Arkansas), Jacquelyn Brown (Oregon) and **Chandler Mulvaney** (Alabama) were chosen as the 2013 National Beef Ambassador Team at the annual National Beef Ambassador competition, which is funded in part by the Beef Checkoff. Twenty-two senior contestants, ages 17-20, were judged in the areas of consumer promotion, classroom presentation, media interview technique and issues response at the event hosted in Sacramento, Calif.



▶ The 2013 National Beef Ambassadors are (from left) Jacquelyn Brown, **Emma Jumper**, **Chandler Mulvaney**, Erin Morrison, and Katie Stroud.

Contestants from throughout the country vied for a place on this elite team of agriculture advocates and \$5,000 in cash prizes sponsored exclusively by Farm Credit. Additionally, five educational scholarships totaling \$5,000 were given by the American National CattleWomen (ANCW) Foundation Inc. and Monsanto.

While preparing for this national beef promotion and education competition, youth across the nation learn about beef and the beef industry with support from state CattleWomen and Cattlemen’s associations and state beef councils. The preparation highlights industry issues of current consumer interest. Winners of the state competitions compete at the national level where they receive additional training. After the event, the youth ambassadors speak to industry issues and misconceptions and educate their peers and meal-time decision makers about beef nutrition, cattle care, safety and more during consumer events, in the classroom and online.

Angus youth earn \$1,000 scholarships from PLA

Six youth exhibitors received \$1,000 scholarships from the Pennsylvania Livestock Association (PLA) during the Opening Ceremony of the 56th Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE) Oct. 4 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center.

Scholarship selection was based on leadership skills, a keen interest in the livestock industry, involvement in the KILE and support of PLA. Recipients were Marshall Allison, Emily Benner, Kayla Jo Burkett, Lindsey Curtis, **Andrea Foore** and Cecilyann Klink.

Andrea is the daughter of Mark and Christine Foore of Seven Valleys, York County. A nine-year member of the York County 4-H program, she has been involved in the beef club and county council, holding offices and taking projects in leadership, livestock judging, market steers and beef breeding. She credits 4-H and her livestock experiences with “making me who I am today.”

A fourth-generation Angus breeder, Andrea is active in the Pennsylvania and National Junior Angus associations, exhibiting locally and nationally, including at KILE. She is studying advertising and public relations with a minor in agriculture communications at Penn State University–York Campus.



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.

▶ **Mississippi State Fair Junior Angus Show, Jackson, Miss., Oct. 8**



▶ Serving as Angus royalty are (front row, from left) **Emree Sifford**, Terry, junior princess; **Ashley Smith**, Batesville, junior princess; **Hannah Beatty**, Pulaski, junior princess; (back row, from left) **Hayden Neal**, Forest, queen; **Miranda Stevens**, New Albany, princess; **Mollie Swinney**, Kosciusko, princess; **Katie Brown**, Coldwater, princess; and **Sophie Wilkerson**, Pulaski, princess.