



# Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

## The value of opportunities

*“Opportunities do not come with their values stamped upon them.”*

— **Maltbie Babcock**

As we enter into 2009, I think back on my experiences in this amazing association. This year will conclude my time as a part of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), and I want to take this opportunity as we start a new year to remind you to take advantage of all of the opportunities that your state association and the American Angus Association have to offer.



**Ann Blumer**

Looking back I can see just how incredibly privileged we are to be a part of such a strong and wonderful organization. It is not the cattle or the many ribbons that hang on the walls that make this experience “the ride of a lifetime.” It is the people we meet, the friends we make and the lessons we learn that create such an opportunity.

As the quote indicates, we often cannot see the value of an opportunity until it has passed. Well, y’all, I am here to impress upon you exactly what the value of the NJAA is. If there is one thing that has influenced my decisions in school, my moral code and my drive to succeed in life, it is this Association. When you arrive at a show, take the time to meet new friends, enjoy the old and take the life lessons home with you. Some of the contests or leadership programs will make you feel a little nervous, but when it is all over, you will be proud that you did something new.

Many people don’t have a summer

program where they can win scholarships and learn how to be leaders. These opportunities may help you become a class officer or hold an even higher position some day. Take the time to write your friends and think about all you have experienced and learned. If you are able to see the value of what you have today, rather than when the opportunity has passed, you will appreciate the ride so much more.

I can say or write over and over what all of this means to me and what I believe, but it is *you* who must realize it. You must seize the moment and take full advantage of all of the programs, the conferences, and the life skills that you are being offered through this Association. Some of the many programs that are available to you as juniors are the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences; “Raising the Bar” officer trainings; and junior national, regional and local shows and contests. These opportunities are designed to help you develop skills that will carry you through life. The development of leadership, communication and team building skills as well as confidence are just some of the things I have developed through the NJAA.

I know you have heard it time and time again that this Association will influence your life. This can only happen if you participate and take advantage of all that is offered to you while you can. As we begin 2009, I ask you to think about what it is that you really want in life, what it is that you might miss out on or gain from just one opportunity.

One of the biggest influences in my life is my uncle Jesse. He always reminds me, “Opportunities are not lost, they are merely taken by someone else. So don’t let it slip by.”

This is something that I think about every day. There are times all of us have needed someone to give us a push to try something new. Amazing chances to learn something new are in front of you constantly in the cattle industry. Don’t miss an opportunity just because you can’t see the value. Be open to those who are older and who want you to succeed. Remember, if you let it go, someone else will take the opportunity. I wish you all a Happy New Year and best wishes in 2009 with school and your cattle.

— **Ann Blumer, South Carolina**

## Students win national beef industry scholarships

Ten students pursuing careers in the beef industry have each been awarded a \$1,500 scholarship provided by the CME Group and the National Cattlemen’s Foundation (NCF). The CME Group has sponsored this scholarship program for 18 years.

This year’s overall scholarship winner is **Meghan Blythe**, a high school senior from White City High School in White City, Kan. Blythe will be a freshman at Kansas State University (K-State) in Manhattan, Kan. during the 2009-2010 academic year. As the national winner, Blythe has been awarded an all-expense-paid trip to the 2009 Cattle Industry Annual Convention and Trade Show in Phoenix, Ariz., where she will be recognized during the “Salute to the Best of Beef Awards Luncheon” Jan. 31.

The scholarships are offered to high school seniors and undergraduate college students studying fields related to the beef

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industry. Each scholarship winner wrote a 750-word essay that identified key issues confronting the beef industry and suggested possible solutions for dealing with those issues.

Other Angus junior members to receive National Beef Industry Scholarships are **Rachel Bartholomew**, Archie, Mo.; **Drew Feller**, Wisner, Neb.; and **JanLee Rowlett**, Hurricane Mills, Tenn.

The additional scholarship recipients are: Ty Barrientes, Sharyland High School, Mission, Texas; Amanda Cain, Siegel High School, Murpheesboro, Tenn.; Cameryn Gaines, University of Tennessee, Martin,

Tenn.; Madeline Moore, Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore.; Meghan Mullins, Clintwood High School, Clintwood, Va.; and Spencer Prosser, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colo.

The Beef Industry Scholarship was introduced in 1989 to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Live Cattle Futures Contract on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME), now part of CME Group. The Exchange and the NCF are committed to the future of the cattle industry and continue to recognize and support outstanding youth in the beef community.

► **Mississippi State Fair Jr. Angus Show, Jackson, Oct. 6**



► Mississippi Angus royalty includes (from left) **Ashton Gandy**, Potts Camp, queen; and **Anna Cox**, Ripley, princess.