

Honest, true and genuine

February is without a doubt most known for Valentine's Day with its Hallmark cards, boxes of truffles and flower arrangements bestowed on others to show one's love. Another important day in February, however, is the birthday of the late, great

President Abraham Lincoln on Feb. 12. It's somewhat sad to think that a retail holiday like Valentine's Day overshadows the celebration of a man who affected our country and touched so many lives on such a monumental scale.

Though most known for his role in the Civil War and the installment of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1862, Lincoln

was also known as a man of true, genuine character and fondly nicknamed 'Honest Abe,' though his life was surrounded by politics and ruthlessness. As February rolls on through the winter, I would like to ask you to take a moment to think about what it means to be honest, true and genuine.

When most people hear Washington, D.C., or the word politics, they almost immediately connect it to lies, mistrust, and scheming to some degree. In an industry laden with politics, especially on the showring side (some say there are more politics in showing Angus cattle than there are in D.C.), we as Angus breeders struggle with these ideas and feelings and are affected by them constantly. So many times we hear rumors before the actual show, such as "so and so has it won already because his dad did this favor for that judge" or "so and so is going to win no matter what because her dad



Ashlyn Carter

is judging the next big show." It is as if people think the only way to win a show is to have the "correct political connections." As a result, there is always a political excuse as to why a particular person won a show as opposed to another, and the winner is left being ridiculed behind their back for doing some "awful political move" to win. Have you been thinking

about what it means to you to be honest, true and genuine? If so, then certainly the scenarios just mentioned did not fit that mold. To be honest is to say what you mean and mean what you say. Being honest also means not only being honest with others but being honest to yourself as well. To be true is to be true to who you are and to not let others influence you in a way that would compromise your character. To be genuine is to be honest and truthful at the same time.

When we apply and define these traits in the cattle industry we get such ideas as to follow through on your words with your actions. If you say you will help someone

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get something done, then that is what you do; you don't back out if it's no longer convenient for you. Being honest with everyone, including yourself, may mean using a stranger with the better animal to win over your longtime friend, or simply accepting that the stranger should have won because their animal was truly better than yours that particular day. And most importantly, be genuine; win and/or lose with grace. Be sincere in your congratulations to others because we each have our day and on that day we will want others to be genuine and sincere in their support for us.

So as we carry on with the New Year and make our way through the endless show season, let's all try to be a little more like Honest Abe in a world of politics. Be honest with yourself and others who you are and true to that self-definition, and treat others in a genuine, sincere manner — the way you would want to be treated as well.

- Ashlyn Carter, Indiana

Juniors, check 'Association Highlights'

Be sure to check the "Association Highlights" column on pages 32-33 for more information, including junior entry booklets, the 2010 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Denver, transfer assistance, scholarships and other junior deadlines.

2009 North Dakota Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting and Banquet, Bismarck, Nov. 28



▶ North Dakota Angus royalty are (from left) Katelyn Wendel, Lamoure, 2010 princess; Amy Becker, Carrington, 2010 queen; and Cassandra Hanson, Enderlin, 2009 queen.

Juniors Earn Certificates of Achievement

Each year, the American Angus Auxiliary awards selected Angus junior members with Certificates of Achievement in recognition of their accomplishments in and out of the showring.

Achievements on the national, state and district levels qualifying for the award include champion or reserve champion bull, heifer, steer or cow-calf pair; division champion or reserve division champion bull, heifer, steer or cow-calf pair; awards in showmanship, judging, carcass classes, scholarship competitions, royalty competitions and all National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) recognized competitions, including those at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Gold, Silver and Bronze awards also qualify, as do leadership roles or positions during the last fiscal year. The following junior members have been presented Achievement Awards.

ALABAMA

Brittney Edwards, *Holly Pond* Tyler Wood, *Holly Pond*

ARKANSAS

Dillon Doublehead, *Gravette* Taylor LaCour, *Berryville* Nicholas Pohlman, *Prairie Grove* Will Pohlman, *Prairie Grove* Paige Tribble, *Pocahontas* Katlyn Tunstill, *Fayetteville*

COLORADO

Kelsey Belk, Fort Collins Aeriel Belk, Fort Collins Britney Creamer, Montrose Molly Cooksey, Roggen Carly Gettings, Broomfield Jessica Harrison, Laporte Holly Heckendorf, Fort Collins Kati Keys, Loma Morgan Penner, Lafayette Andrew Schafer, Dolores

ILLINOIS

Gretchen Frost, *Tallula* Andrea Hosto, *Alhambra* Robert Hosto, *Alhambra*

INDIANA

Hunter Hamilton, *Heltonville* Brooke Langley, *Walton* Katelyn Wilson, *Orleans*

IOWA

Jordan Barker, Monticello Lauren Barker, Monticello Tyler Becker, Diagonal Austin Brandt, Corning Abby Collison, Rockwell Citv Megan Collison, Rockwell City Nicholas Collison, Lake City Bryanne Duckett, New Liberty Taylor Duckett, New Liberty Grace Ehlinger, Marion Cole Greiman. Garner Kyle Greiman, Garner Audra Haglund, Boone Eric Harvey, *Knoxville* Madison Henderson, Drakesville Tyler Henderson, Drakesville Clayton Hester, New Sharon Katelyn Holmes, Benton Ashley Hunter, Goodell Kale Kiesewetter. Letts Sarah Kinrade, Maguoketa Baxter Knapp, Bloomfield Leo Kruse, Rudd Ralee Kruse, Rudd Roni Kruse, Rudd Mary Mardesen. Oxford Tim Mardesen, Oxford Reed McCormick. Pleasantville

Jordan Paulsud, Danbury Ty Ruby, Greene Wesley Ruby, Greene Samantha Schermer, Latimer Adam Staudt, Rockford Erin Steele, Anita Tyler Steele, Anita Courtney Younge, Ventura

KANSAS

Hadley DeHoff, *Tonganoxie* Megan Fink, *Randolph* Kyleigh Santee, *Langdon*

KENTUCKY

Blake Boyd, *Mays Lick* Logan Boyd, *Mays Lick* Nikki Bugg, *Burgin* Maggie Jasper, *Midway* Colby Myers, *Harrodsburg* Ruth Myers, *Harrodsburg*

LOUISIANA

Nancy Bickham, Saint Francisville Samantha Bickham, Saint Francisville Avery Boone, Calhoun Jacob Chicola, Deville Katelyn Corsentino, Denham Springs Mason Duhe, Paulina Graham Graves, Prairieville Lee Hymel, Vacherie Stephanie Hymel, Vacherie Cheyenne Jones, Franklinton Avery Kingman, New Iberia Colby Lingo, Oak Grove Meg Martin, Duson Daniel McFarland, Keithville Isaac McFarland, Keithville Harold Mizell, *Covington* Candace Purvis, Columbia Jess Roussel, *Gramercy* Rene Roussel, *Gramercy* Joshua Scott, Loranger Trevor Sonnier, Pineville Jarred Yantis, Bunkie Samantha Yantis, Bunkie

MARYLAND

Jessica Clarke, *Rocky Ridge* Taylor Clarke, *Rocky Ridge*

MICHIGAN

Hope Bordner, *Sturgis* Danielle Foster, *Niles* Tabitha Grochowalski, *Ada* Kollin Johnson, *Quincy* Dylan Kennedy, *Nashville* Justin Kennedy, *Nashville* Tanner Lindorf, *Niles* Dee Anne Merriman, *Lowell* Kendra Merriman, *Lowell* Sterling Reichenbach, Bath Katie Reid, Eaton Rapids Rachel Reid, Eaton Rapids Chelsea Ruggles, Kingston Justin Ruggles, Kingston Kyle Ruggles, Kingston Patricia Vaassen, Ann Arbor

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NORTH CAROLINA

Daniel Boykin, *Elm City* Avery Faulkner, *La Grange* Joezell Fulbright, *Vale* Colleen Jones, *Kinston* Miriam Lewis, *Walstonburg*

NEW YORK

Gabrielle Glenister, *Pulaski* Kyle Glenister, *Pulaski* Spencer Glenister, *Pulaski*

OHIO

Justin Bachman, Lancaster Krystin Bachman, Lancaster Lydia Dance, Hillsboro Lincoln Deitrick, Zanesville Logan Deitrick, Zanesville Bethaney Enos, Cambridge Lauren Grimes, Hillsboro Lindsey Grimes, Hillsboro Bailey Harsh, Radnor William Harsh, Radnor Colton Kreager, Newark Shyla Kreager, Newark Emily Wogan, Hebron Sarah Wogan, Hebron

PENNSYLVANIA

Andrew Cranmer, Butler Shelby Dean. New Castle Alana Eisenhour, Wellsville Andrea Foore, Seven Valleys Logan Foore, Seven Valleys Katrina Frey, Quarryville Freddy Frey, Quarryville Hannah Grim, East Berlin Kate Livingston, Dover Kyle Livingston, Dover Sarah Lownes, Honey Brook Kayce Myers, Wellsville William Nichols, Tyrone Daniel Rohrbaugh, Seven Valleys Alysha Sweitzer, Wellsville Haley Sweitzer, Wellsville Maria Trowbridge, Meshoppen Amanda Thompson, *Wellsville*

SOUTH DAKOTA

Alex Rogen, *Brandon* Madison Styles, *Brentford*

TEXAS

Megan Ahearn, Wills Point Justin Clopton, Covington Dan Crownover, Italy Robert Dolson, Hico Gretchen Ettredge, Pilot Point Kevin Gleason, Midlothian Mattie Lastovica, Fredericksburg Mollie Lastovica, Fredericksburg Stephanie Lastovica, Salado Katy Satree. Montaque Ashley Skeels, Boerne Matt Smith, Golden Tyler Smith, Memphis Jacob Steph, Tatum Clayton Stevenson, Brenham Mackenzi Vela, Memphis Wade Wells, Hamilton Zachary Wells, Hamilton Brazos Williams, Memphis Julie Williams, Idalou Tye Williams, Idalou Tylee Jo Williams, Memphis

VIRGINIA

Shane Clary, Brodnax

WISCONSIN

Derek Horstmeyer, Marshall