



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights. Compiled by **Mathew Elliott**

Take The Angus Challenge!

Why should you be a member of the greatest junior association? The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) offers a world of opportunities to its members. Joining the NJAA has influenced many youth of today and my successes. You are able to join the NJAA from birth to your 21st birthday. The NJAA helps to educate its members on the importance of the beef industry and also teaches juniors lessons that will help them in today's business world.

Opportunities and education

When you become a member of the NJAA, you are able to hit the ground running. The annual fee for being a member is \$20. You are able to register cattle in your name from the start. This allows your immediate participation and development of your herd of bred-and-owned cattle. NJAA members receive two issues of the

Angus Journal and two issues of the NJAA *Directions* newsletter annually.

The NJAA offers many different leadership conferences for junior members, including the annual LEAD (Leaders Engaged in Angus Development) conference, mini-LEADs, and the Raising the Bar conference, each taking place at various locations. The activities of the NJAA that many of us know about are the various state, regional and national junior Angus shows where you are able to exhibit your animals and participate in showmanship.

When you think about the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), it is a tremendous show with many other contests squeezed into the week. The contests range from public speaking to fitting, judging, cooking, writing, team sales and quiz bowl. Some contests require team participation, and some allow individuals to showcase their skills at the NJAS. The contests allow juniors to get involved with some of the issues facing the industry and help them to learn the importance of the Angus breed.

If you are unable to make it to the NJAS, don't worry. You can submit a poster, write an article to promote the breed, or submit a photo or a graphic design project. These contests add great value to the NJAS and are major contributors to the history of the show.

Then, when you think it is all over, the Angus Foundation distributes many scholarships to deserving juniors. This will help many juniors continue their educational endeavors.

The NJAA has been a large part of my family's life for the past 24 years. My brother became a member in the mid-1980s. Boy, has this Association grown. A few years later,

I was born, and we are still enjoying the growth of this Association.

I started participating in many of the contests, especially the photo contest because there were many junior nationals too far away for my family to attend.

My participation in various leadership workshops and educational programs has allowed me to learn the importance of the Angus breed to the beef industry. This has



Shane Clary

allowed me to talk to various breeders and people from other organizations that question the cattle industry. The things you are able to learn from this industry and association are endless, not to mention the lifelong friends you develop.

So, if you have young potential juniors in your family, I encourage you to get them involved. This Association offers so many opportunities that will help to shape kids into great-minded, hardworking individuals ready to face the real world. Be sure to visit the NJAA website to see the various deadlines for shows and contests. If you have any questions about the NJAA or what it has to offer, feel free to contact any of the NJAA Board of Directors whose information is listed on the website and in the green box at left.

— **Shane Clary, Virginia**

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Visit the NJAA website at www.njaa.info.



► North Dakota Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Bismarck, Nov. 20



► North Dakota Angus royalty are (from left) **Katelyn Wendel**, Lamoure, 2011 queen; and **Amy Becker**, Carrington, 2010 queen.

