Challenging our lifestyles

Every day we get up to take on the world, knowingly risking our own safety to get the day's farm work complete. Some of you may have your child, grandchild, or niece or nephew with you to help along the way. Growing up, not many of us thought twice about entering the bull lot, jumping into the tractor or hopping on the ATV to check pastures. Now, imagine every single one of those daily actions being regulated. This is exactly what the U.S. Department of Labor has proposed. As I am sure many have made notice, in November the U.S. Department of Labor proposed 13 new Hazardous Orders pertaining to the family farm. Even though children that are immediately related to the owner and operator of the farm are exempt from these newly proposed regulations, this type of legislation could drastically change the face of family operations.

Machinery regulations

In today's realm of agriculture, it is not uncommon for a child younger than 16 years of age to go help their uncle with harvest. The newly proposed legislation would stop those types of actions by prohibiting young people

from operating and performing tasks with tractors. The Department of Labor would like to prohibit any youth from operating or assisting with agricultural tractors equipped with 20-hp PTO plus. Furthermore, the new legislation



Kelli Retallick

proposes a 90-hour training course for persons older than 16 to be certified for such usage. While growing up on the family farm, most agricultural youth are taught from a very young age the do's and don'ts around

I do believe safety on farms definitely deserves attention; however, I am not sure instituting laws is the best way to approach the issue.

machinery. For many, it has been a common practice to feed cows, make hay and grind feed well before their 16th birthday.

Animal handling regulations

However unsettling that hazardous equipment order may be, the one that caught my full attention was the legislation proposed regarding animal handling. The proposal suggests prohibiting any person 16 years old or younger from working with bulls older

than 6 months or cows with a calf at side, or implementing animal handling practices that may result in unpredictable behaviors. Individuals could also no longer take part in the moving of cattle to confined spaces via foot, horseback or ATV.

To me, this sounds absurd. Many of us have been working cattle for as long as we can remember. These daily practices initiated the great passion we have for this breed. The labor law not only prohibits extended family members from working with cattle, but also prohibits them from helping at the family's annual bull sale, taking shifts in the barn at night during calving season and showing Angus cattle — something that is near to all of us in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

By Dec. 1, to my great admiration, more than 20,000 comments in opposition to this new legislation were expressed. Some people expressed opinions on the wordage of the actual bill — "define unpredictable" — and others simply questioned how such laws were to be enforced. I do believe safety on farms definitely deserves attention; however, I am not sure instituting laws is the best way to approach the issue.

The challenge for all is to get informed, stay current and be ready to protect our lifestyles in this ever-challenging world.

- Kelli Retallick, Wisconsin

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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.

North Dakota Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Bismarck, Nov. 19



► Crowned as North Dakota Angus royalty are (from left) **Katelyn Wendel**, LaMoure, 2011 North Dakota Angus queen; **Kaitlyn Kline**, Goodrich, 2012 North Dakota Angus queen; and **Renae Tokach**, Saint Anthony, 2012 North Dakota Angus princess.

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Juniors earn Certificates of Achievement

The 2011 Certificates of Achievement have been awarded to qualifying junior members for outstanding achievements by the American Angus Auxiliary.

The Certificate of Achievement is issued only for outstanding achievements at national, state and district (tri-county) levels. County-level achievements are not eligible. In a given year, a qualifying junior Angus member will receive one certificate, in recognition of their achievement record as reported during the year (from Oct. 1 of the previous year to Sept. 30 of the current year).

Achievements that qualify: 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 that were held during that time.

ARKANSAS

Fred Pohlman II Nicholas Pohlman Katlyn Tunstill

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Madalyn Rohr Maguire Rohr Andrew Schafer David Smith

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Destiny McCauley

IDAHO

Shane Kerner

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Taylen Abarr Lauren Barker Cassidy Becker Weston Brandt Abby Collison Megan Collison **Bailey Core** Ellen DeWilde **Bryanne Duckett Taylor Duckett** Mallory Espenscheid Cole Greiman Kyle Greiman Sophie Hansen Tucker Henderson Katelyn Holmes Connor Holvoet Alexandra Hunter Kiersten Jass Jordan Johnson Olivia Iohnson Emily Ketelsen Kale Kiesewetter Will Kiesewetter Sarah Kinrade

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KANSAS

Lauren Herman Cale Hinrichsen Eva Hinrichsen Bryanna Hite Tanner Hite Esther McCabe

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PENNSYLVANIAAlexis Cash

Laini Dean Shelby Dean Alana Eisenhour Andrea Foore Logan Foore Freddy Frey Hannah Grim Kate Livingston Kyle Livingston Morgan Livingston Sarah Lownes Cody McKean Rachel McKean Kayce Myers Daniel Rohrbach Alysha Sweitzer Amanda Thompson Elizabeth Trowbridge Maria Trowbridge Philip Trowbridge Lindsay Upperman Elizabeth Voight **Hunter Voight Jacob Werner**

SOUTH DAKOTA

Madison Styles

TENNESSEE

Beau Rowlett Hannah Rowlett JanLee Rowlett Lawson Rowlett

TEXAS

Megan Ahearn Tanner Hash Stephanie Lastovica Stuart Lastovica Cutter Pohlman Katy Satree Wade Wells Brazos Williams Julie Williams Kate Williams Tye Williams

VIRGINIA

Mark Alexander Morgan Alexander Caleb Boden Cody Boden Shane Clary



► NEXT GENERATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

■ Indiana Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting, Greenfield, Dec. 10



► Receiving Indiana Angus Auxiliary Scholarship awards are (from left) **Katelyn Wilson**, Orleans; **Benjamin Miller**, Gaston; and **Haylee Cooper**, Liberty.



▶ Officers and directors of the 2012 Indiana Jr. Angus Ass'n board are (from left) **Katelyn Wilson**, Orleans, past president; **Madison Butler**, Vincennes, president; **Kyrsten Retherford**, Indianapolis, vice president; **Sarah Innis**, Milroy, secretary/communications director; **Caleb Smith**, Whitestown, treasurer; **Kallie Knott**, Garrett, historian; **Krisha Retherford**, Indianapolis, membership director; and **Robbie Dragani**, Plymouth, Indiana Angus Ass'n representative.



► Crowned 2012 Indiana Angus royalty are (from left) **Ryen Kerr,** Bloomington, junior princess; **Krisha Retherford,** princess and **Kyrsten Retherford,** queen, both of Indianapolis.



► Katelyn Wilson, Orleans, receives the Jim Singleton Show Heifer of the Year award for PF Cher 031 KN, sired by SK Patton Freebird 430.



► Kade Patton (left), Frankfort, intermediate champion, and Katelyn Wilson (right), Orleans, senior champion, are recognized for winning the showmanship award at the Indiana State Fair Jr.