



# Next Generation

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

## Résumé, interview builder

*As a college senior, the notion of the “real world” has struck me hard in the past few months. Along with this notion comes multiple interviews. We all know the interview is the time to let yourself shine and to talk about past experiences that have influenced your life and how they will help you excel in the position for which you are interviewing. I am sure many of you have a résumé that is packed with all of the activities you have participated in within the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and your state associations. It is not the mere existence of these activities on your résumé that is going to make them powerful in your job search; it is your ability to talk about the activities and what you gained from them.*

### Admirable behavior

Recently, I interviewed for an absolutely phenomenal position. As I entered the room I expected the common interview questions — but to my surprise it was an entirely behavioral interview. In other words, every single question began with the words “Tell me about a time when . . .”

Now, do not get me wrong; I did not incorporate cattle into every single answer because the NJAA is not the only thing I am involved in and by no means should all your

answers revolve around one thing. But, after many mentions and examples, the interviewer noticed my passion and dedication for agriculture and livestock, and specifically told me those were admirable traits that they look for in employees. So, why am I sharing this story? Keep reading!

I encourage you to work on your résumé and have it critiqued long before you begin your internship or job search. Take the time to tweak your résumé and cover letter to fit each position you apply for; this may sound obvious, but it is a simple way to show employers you recognize what the position requires.

Finally, begin interview practice at an early age. I promise the relaxed feeling you will experience because you have done this before will be such a great feeling when waiting for your name to be called. I have learned there are numerous people within the Association who will gladly help you with your résumé and interview skills.

Also, there is now a contest at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) called Career Development that last year had a great response as a very helpful and truly applicable contest.

Finally, we are all so fortunate to have an association that allows such extensive networking and has so many avenues for learning and practicing lifelong skills. For lack of better words, take advantage of that! Make sure that when you are asked about the NJAA in your future interviews you have many stories, and when you hear the line

“Tell me about a time when . . .” you do not even hesitate.

Now, tell me about a time when you were involved in an organization that was not only fun, but taught you many things.

— Danielle Foster, Michigan

### Rincker wins 2011 NWSS Livestock Judging Contest

Lee Rincker, a University of Illinois (U of I) junior in agricultural education, took home the coveted title of high individual in the 2011 National Western Stock Show (NWSS) Senior Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest.



Individually, Rincker finished first in cattle, first in cattle reasons, first in swine, second in oral reasons and first overall.

“This will definitely go down as one of the most memorable moments in my life,” Rincker said. “As a ‘cattle kid,’ just knowing the National Western Stock Show’s history makes me even more humbled and honored. Coming home with a win for our team makes all those cold winter workouts worth it.”

Rincker led the U of I livestock judging team to win High Team Overall in beef and swine. The team finished third in oral reasons and fourth overall out of 29 teams from across the country. Rincker’s teammate, Blake Lehman, finished eighth in swine. The team also finished seventh overall in the NWSS Carload Contest.

Preparation for these contests is intense and requires a great sacrifice of time and energy, said Dan Shike, head coach of the U of I livestock judging team.

### Be sure to check ‘Association Highlights’

Be sure to check “Association Highlights” for information on Angus Foundation Scholarships, getting help with the transfer of an animal and junior deadlines. Most junior-related items begin on page 23.

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## NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Visit the NJAA website at [www.njaa.info](http://www.njaa.info).



Danielle Foster

## ▶ NEXT GENERATION

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### ▶ Pennsylvania Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Harrisburg, Jan. 9

▶ Recognized as Pennsylvania Angus royalty are (seated, from left) **Rachel McKean**, Mercer, sweetheart; **Amanda Cole**, Bentleyville, sweetheart; **Lindsay Upperman**, Chambersburg, 2011 queen; **Hannah Grim**, East Berlin, 2010 queen; **Madison Weaver**, Ephrata, sweetheart; **Shelby Dean**, New Castle, sweetheart; (standing, from left) princesses **Amanda Thompson**, Wellsville; **Kate Livingston**, Dover; **Andrea Foore**, Seven Valleys; **Alexis Cash**, York; **Claudia Hisson**, Greencastle; and **Ashley Brehm**, West Sunbury.



PHOTOS COURTESY AMERICAN ANGUS ASS'N



▶ **Lindsay Upperman** (left), Chambersburg, was crowned Pennsylvania Angus Queen; also pictured is Hannah Grim, 2010 Pennsylvania Angus Queen.



▶ **Lindsay Upperman** (left), Chambersburg, receives the Pennsylvania Jr. Angus Ass'n 2010 Outstanding Girl Award from Fritz Frey, Pennsylvania Jr. Angus Ass'n advisor.

### ▶ Kansas Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Hutchinson, Jan. 22

▶ Receiving Bronze and Silver awards are (from left) **Bryanna Hite**, Valley Center, Bronze Award recipient; Matthew Caldwell, American Angus Ass'n regional manager, presenting; **Esther McCabe**, Elk City, and **Lauren Herman**, Kingman, both Bronze and Silver Award recipients. The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the NJAA Recognition Program. Juniors must apply for the awards and then meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving them.



▶ **Hannah McCabe** (left), Elk City, receives the Kenneth & Lorene Moore Scholarship from Trisha Breuel with the Kansas Angus Auxiliary Scholarship Committee.



▶ **Esther McCabe** (right), Elk City, was crowned 2011 Miss Kansas Angus; also pictured is Tess Steckline, 2010 Miss Kansas Angus.

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