



# Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights. Compiled by Kasey Miller.

## Are you prepared for disaster?

*In the last year, from my personal experiences and those of fellow Angus breeders, I've come to realize disaster can take place in many forms at any given time. We as agriculturalists need to realize that just because we work amongst nature doesn't mean we're immune to the havoc it can produce.*

### The issues

Whether you own 10 head or 1,000, or work in a fifth- or first-generation program, being prepared for disaster is essential. Many cattlemen have developed the sense that if disaster ever hits, "we'll cross that bridge when we come to it." Recently, many breeders have come to realize how detrimental this mentality has become. Understand that we work in a long-term industry — our profits take months



Megan Ahearn

and years, not days to return. Simply relying on a quick fix when calamity occurs will no longer cut it.

For those of us who make our sole livelihood in the ranching business, it is extremely important to prepare for disaster. Being unprepared when adversity strikes is extremely dangerous and completely avoidable. If caught by surprise, agriculturalists can face issues such as complete liquidation and financial reevaluation.

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### Not just a natural calamity

While most disasters in the agriculture industry are concerned with do revolve around the weather, there are several non-natural problems we should prepare to face. We've seen drought and floods, hurricanes and tornados, blizzards and fires in the past several seasons. Needless to say, nobody in 2010 was expecting these problems to occur a year down the road.

However, there are other small-scale tribulations we should prepare ourselves to face. Unexpected health issues can often put ag functions on hold for extended periods of time. When a family member or highly responsible employee becomes ill, it is emotionally trying. However, consider the stress it puts on your herd or operation to come to a screeching halt and take a seat on the back burner.

Just as a business suffers the loss of employees, for a large-scale operation, losing staff can have tremendous effects on the structure and flow of action. We don't work off manpower alone though; loss of acreage or essential equipment can put production on hold for extended periods of time.

### Solutions

So how do we avoid this? Truth be told, we can't. Never think disaster won't happen to you or your operation. What we can do is prepare. Set up a backup plan, a course of action for when times are rough. If you ever suffer adversity and are at a loss for how to proceed, take a moment to sit down and discuss what steps to take. While we can't avoid most disasters, we can prepare to handle them if necessary. Here are some things to consider:

- **Adapt to change.** Actively seek out changes you can make to maintain the well-being of your herd. Consider feed alternatives and relocation of some groups of cattle.
- **Stricter culling.** Create a temporary higher-than-usual standard for the cattle you keep.
- **Herd reduction.** How much is enough, five or 500 head? Be realistic when evaluating what you are capable of maintaining.
- **Reevaluation of commitment.** It takes a lot of commitment to be an agriculturalist, and even more during hard times. Make sure you know just how much you are willing to commit and/or to sacrifice, and how comfortable you are with that commitment.
- **Have a second in command.** Establish who could effectively take the leadership role should there ever be a need.
- **Insurance for land and cattle.** Contact your insurance company and set up a plan that works for you to compensate for losses, should they occur.
- **Savings.** Always set aside an emergency fund; you'll be thankful you did.
- **Reach out to fellow breeders.** Your fellow producers and friends can often lend a helping hand to someone in need. Talk with your peers and see if they could temporarily help out in any way.

Years will pass where you, fortunately, will

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encounter no issues. By being prepared for disaster, when the going gets tough, you will rise above and be thankful you were well-equipped to do so. Talk with your family and co-workers and develop a plan of action that works for you.

— Megan Ahearn, Texas

### Maryland Junior Angus Association news

The Maryland Junior Angus Association (MJAA) has started another busy year. Here are some of the highlights of the year already and how 2011 wrapped up.

The Maryland Angus Association hosted its annual winter social Dec. 3, 2011, at the Cozy Inn & Restaurant in Thurmont, Md. It was a fun and enjoyable evening as Maryland cattlemen gathered for their love of the Angus breed and to celebrate another successful year. The 2011 junior awards were given to chosen members and families. The award recipients are as follows:

- ▶ Outstanding First-Year Member: **Christopher Coblentz**
- ▶ Outstanding Junior Member: **Colby Dull**
- ▶ Outstanding Intermediate Member: **Shane Heizer**
- ▶ Outstanding Senior Member: **Kelsey Stabler**
- ▶ Golden Pitchfork Award: **Victoria Ritter**
- ▶ Family of the Year: **The Donnelly Family**; Keith, Ginger and Tyler

Members are continuing to prepare to host the 2012 Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, with many fundraisers in the coming months. Members are currently selling Sportsman Calendars, which give the buyer the opportunity to win a gun or cash every day of 2012. It is not too late to purchase this calendar for \$50, and buyers are still eligible to win the prizes from Jan. 1 on, even though we are well into the year. If you are interested in a calendar, please contact Tim Clarke at 301-748-4161 or [tclarke@frederickcountymd.gov](mailto:tclarke@frederickcountymd.gov). Calendars can be mailed anywhere in the United States, and if you win a gun, arrangements will be made with your local gun dealer for delivery.

We are planning a very exciting Eastern Regional and hope that all of you will come and join us as we will be “Chillin’ on the Chesapeake” in Timonium, Md., June 22-24, 2012.

— submitted by Taylor Clarke, MJAA Reporter

### Ken Troutt Memorial Scholarship

Applications are now being taken for the 17th Annual Ken Troutt Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship fund has been established in memory of Ken Troutt,

renowned auctioneer for many Northwest bull sales. Scholarships of \$500 will be announced at the March 28 WCA Bull Test Sale in Eltopia, Wash.

To be eligible, youths must (1) be an incoming freshman in the fall of 2012 and enrolled in a college or technical school; and

(2) be an individual or son/daughter of an individual that has consigned or purchased bulls in the 2008 or 2009 Cowman’s Classic Bull Sale or the 2009, 2010 or 2011 WCA Bull Test Sale.

Applications are due prior to March 20,

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### PA Farm Show Scholarship Foundation awards \$91,000 to 26 students

The Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation presented 26 students — four of whom are National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members — with \$3,500 scholarships on Tuesday, Jan. 10, at the 2012 Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg.

Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary George Greig presented the scholarship awards, recognizing the integral contributions youth make in keeping Pennsylvania growing.

“Each year, the Pennsylvania Farm Show celebrates the best of agriculture — and you are the best,” said Greig. “I thank the scholarship foundation, its members, contributors and buyers for their hard work. You are making a difference in the lives of these students.”

The foundation has awarded \$977,250 to 370 junior Farm Show exhibitors since the program began in 1993. In addition, Delaware Valley College provides matching grants to its recipients, and Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences offers \$2,000 to its full-time students.



▶ Left: **Kate Livingston**, Dover, received a \$3,500 scholarship from the Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation and a \$2,000 scholarship from Penn State’s College of Agricultural Sciences. Pictured are (from left) Les Fisher from Bell and Evans Poultry, Tim and Nancy Livingston, Kate Livingston and Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary George Greig.



▶ Left: **Daniele Riley**, James Creek, received a \$3,500 scholarship from the Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Bill and Betsy McCauley from John Rock Inc., Daniele Riley, Denise Riley, and Greig.



▶ Left: **Morgan Livingston**, Spring Grove, received a \$3,500 scholarship from the Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Jeff Bankert, Bill Kepler, Ted Bowers and Mike Firestine, representing Fulton Bank; Morgan, Robert and Darlene Livingston; and Greig.



▶ Left: **Lindsay Upperman**, Chambersburg, received a \$3,500 scholarship from the Pennsylvania Farm Show Scholarship Foundation. Pictured are (from left) Rep. Mark Keller, Karen Hack, Steve and Jane Upperman, Lindsay Upperman, Butch Clemens of Hatfield Quality Meats, and Greig.

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2012, and can be requested by contacting Kendall Cattle Sales at 1040 Kendall Road, Potlatch, ID 83855; 208-858-2163; or kendall@potlatch.com.

### Angus scholarship opportunities

The American Angus Auxiliary and the Angus Foundation both have scholarship opportunities for junior Angus members.

Scholarship eligibility and application information is listed in the “Association Highlights” column in this issue. Go to page 25 for more details.

### NJAA events and deadlines

The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) has listed dates and deadlines for upcoming events in the “Association

Highlights” column in this issue. Go to page 25 for more details, and remember to verify deadlines, as late entries or late transfers will not be accepted.



**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.*

### ▶ Kansas Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Hutchinson, Kan., Jan. 21



▶ **Chelsey Figge** (left), Onaga, was crowned 2012 Miss Kansas Angus. Also pictured is Esther McCabe, 2011 Miss Kansas Angus.



▶ **Tanner Rayl** (left), Hutchinson, receives the Kenneth & Lorene Moore Scholarship presented by Shelly Janssen, representing the Kansas Angus Auxiliary scholarship committee.

### ▶ Kansas Angus Futurity Junior Show, Hutchinson, Kan., Jan. 22



▶ **Tyler Ottensmeier** (left), McLouth, Kan., and **Allison Blythe**, White City, Kan., were selected to serve as Kansas voting delegates during the 2012 National Junior Angus Show.