



Next Generation

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

Decisions, decisions, decisions

“A determination arrived at after consideration.” This short and simple definition is what the *Merriam-Webster*



Cody Smith

Dictionary used to define the word decision. Decisions are made every day; some are for the better, and some for the worse — yet you don't know until after you have made up your mind. I have made many life-

changing decisions in my life, some of the biggest during my years showing cattle.

For instance, after my freshman year of basketball, I decided to hang up my basketball jersey to become more devoted to FFA and showing cattle within the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). My reason for doing this was not because I didn't like basketball; it was the fact that I can reap so many more opportunities from FFA and

the NJAA. I'm not telling you to go up to your coach and quit tomorrow; I am telling you to think about your life and priorities, and see what is going to benefit your future more.

In today's society there are plenty of bad decisions out there that can damage your future, but just try to keep your head up and view the brighter things in life. Some of the most important decisions you will make in life are presently around you. The things you do, the classes you take, and the people you hang out with all are very important decisions that are building your foundation for life. Do not take the easy way out just because your buddy is. Try to have friends who set very high expectations for themselves, and it will rub off. Success is contagious, but failure is right around the corner if you don't keep your head on level.

Begin thinking about what you will do with your life at a young age, and it will make your decisions much easier. For example, I am currently majoring in agriculture business so I can have a career within the field of agriculture and still be in the sales field. I plan to raise Angus cattle the rest of my life to carry out the family tradition. The herd being built today is part of the third generation, and I hope my children will be the fourth.

One of my favorite quotes of all time comes from Henry Ford, “If you think you can or if you think you can't, you are probably right.” This means you must believe in yourself 100%. If you are a leader in your state you need to reach out and help other members believe in themselves, because I promise you it will be amazing to see what they can actually do with a little self-confidence.

Make good decisions, believe in yourself, and think about your future — because you are painting your life portrait now.

— **Cody Smith, Missouri**

NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERMS UP IN 2011

BRITNEY CREAMER, Colorado, **chairperson**, britney_creamer20@hotmail.com

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CLINTON LAFLIN, Kansas, **communication director**, superc336@hotmail.com

JENNIFER ANN SMITH, Texas, **Foundation director**, jenniferann.smith@yahoo.com

JACLYN UPPERMAN, Pennsylvania, **membership director**, jupperma@su.edu

DANIELLE FOSTER, Michigan, **leadership director**, fostdani@umich.edu

TERMS UP IN 2012

AUSTIN BRANDT, Iowa, brandtfarms@wildblue.net

SHANE CLARY, Virginia, shane.clary.08@cnu.edu

LINDSEY GRIMES, Ohio, grimes.159@buckeyemail.osu.edu

GARRETT KNEBEL, Indiana, garrett.knebel@okstate.edu

ALISHA NORD, Minnesota, alisha.nord@ndsu.edu

CLAY WILLIAMS, Georgia, dcw3791@uga.edu

Visit the NJAA website at www.njaa.info.

NJAA/Angus Journal Photo Contest

Reminder that June 1 is the deadline for the NJAA/Angus Journal Photo Contest. See page 60 of your February *Angus Journal* for rules and an entry form. Materials are also available at www.njaa.info.

► Georgia Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Athens, Jan. 29



PHOTOS COURTESY AMERICAN ANGUS ASS'N

► **Shelby Eidson** (left), Arnoldsville, queen, and **Abbey Gretsch** (right), Crawford, princess, were crowned 2011 Georgia Angus royalty.



► **Logan Steed** (left), Carrollton, 2010 Georgia Angus princess; and **Samantha Allen** (right), Talmo, 2010 Miss Georgia Angus, receive outgoing royalty plaques.



► **Shelby Eidson** (left), Arnoldsville, and **Clay Williams** (right), Bishop, receive Bronze and Silver awards.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 58

▶ NEXT GENERATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 57

▶ Texas Jr. Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Fort Worth, Jan. 21

▶ **Right:** The TJAA officers and board members are (standing, front row, from left) **Reagan Johnson**, Lake Creek; **Stuart Lastovica**, Salado; (second row, from left) **Tyler Bond-Jones** and **Kyle Jones**, both of Bleiberville; **Tye Williams**, Idalou; **Tylee Jo Williams**, Memphis, first vice president; **Julie Williams**, Idalou, treasurer; **Stephanie Lastovica**, Salado; (back row, from left) **Robert Dolson**, Hico; **Brazos Williams**, Memphis, president; **Wade Wells**, Hamilton, secretary; and **Clayton Stevenson**, Brenham, reporter/historian.



▶ **Julie Williams** (left), Idalou, receives her Bronze Award from Jared Murnin, American Angus Ass'n regional manager. The Bronze Award is the first level of the National Junior Angus Ass'n (NJAA) Recognition Program. Juniors must apply for the award and meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving it.



▶ **Stephanie Lastovica** (right), Salado, was crowned 2011 Miss Texas Angus. Also pictured is Tylee Jo Williams, 2010 Miss Texas Angus.



▶ **Tye Williams** (right), Idalou, receives the Rookie of the Year award from Megan Ahearn, 2010 Texas Junior Angus Ass'n (TJAA) president.

▶ South Dakota Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting, Sioux Falls, Jan. 25



▶ **Elizabeth Dahl** (left), Beresford, was crowned Miss South Dakota Angus; also pictured is Calli Pritchard, 2010 Miss South Dakota Angus.

▶ Virginia Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Natural Bridge, Feb. 4



▶ **Left: Catie Hope**, Berryville, was named the Virginia Junior Angus Ass'n (VJAA) 2010 Outstanding Junior Member.

▶ **Right: Jenna Hamilton**, Buena Vista, was named VJAA Outstanding First-Year Junior Member.



Juniors, be aware of these deadlines

- ▶ April 15 is the ownership and entry deadline for the Atlantic National Junior Angus Show
- ▶ May 1 is the deadline for several application forms, including:
 - Gold Award applications
 - Outstanding Leadership Award applications
 - Ownership and entry deadlines for the Northwest Regional Preview Show
 - Angus Foundation and Auxiliary scholarship applications

- Certified Angus Beef LLC/National Junior Angus Association (CAB/NJAA) scholarship applications
- ▶ May 15 is the ownership and entry deadline for the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show and the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Junior Angus Show
- ▶ May 27-30 is the Atlantic National Junior Angus Show, Timonium, Md.
- ▶ June 1 deadlines include:
 - Ownership and entry deadlines for the NJAS

- Entries for the NJAA writing, photography and graphic design contests
- Entry and recipe deadline for the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off

Please note there are no exceptions to any of the ownership and entry deadlines. Please contact the Association if you need assistance meeting the deadlines. For more information contact the Junior Activities Department at 816-383-5100 or go to www.njaa.info.

► Louisiana Jr. Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Gonzales, Feb. 11

► **Right:** Achievement Award winners are (front row, from left) **Lainey Martin**, Gramercy; **Isaac McFarland**, Keithville; **Jacob Chicola**, Deville; **Wyatt Hymel**, Paulina; **Jarred Yantis**, Bunkie; **Mason Duhe**, Paulina; **Trevor Sonnier**, Pineville; (back row, from left) **Katelyn Corsentino**, Denham Springs; **Harold Mizell**, Covington; **Nancy Bickham**, Saint Francisville; **Clayton Simmons**, Bossier City; **Cheyenne Jones**, Franklinton; **Rene Roussel**, Gramercy; **Stephanie Hymel**, Vacherie; **Avery Boone**, Calhoun; **Samantha Yantis**, Bunkie; and **Daniel McFarland**, Keithville.



► **Cheyenne Jones** (right), Franklinton, receives the NJAA Bronze and Silver awards from Richard Dyar, American Angus Ass'n regional manager.

► **Right:** Recipients of Senior Awards, given to high school seniors, are (from left) **Jarred Yantis**, Bunkie; **Stephanie Hymel**, Vacherie; **Daniel McFarland**, Keithville; **Mason Duhe**, Paulina; and **Rene Roussel**, Gramercy.



► **Stephanie Hymel** (left), Vacherie, and **Daniel McFarland** (right), Keithville, receive Louisiana Angus Auxiliary Scholarships from Melanie Ourso.



► **Destiny Jones** (right), Ruston, receives the Rookie of the Year award from Patti Hymel.



► Louisiana Angus royalty are (from left) **Cheyenne Jones**, Franklinton, 2010 princess; **Destiny Jones**, Ruston, 2011 princess; **Taryn Shaw**, Jennings, 2011 queen; and **Stephanie Hymel**, Vacherie, 2010 queen.



► **Left:** Louisiana Jr. Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Daniel McFarland**, Keithville, president; **Samantha Yantis**, Bunkie, vice president; **Jarred Yantis**, Bunkie, second vice president; **Cheyenne Jones**, Franklinton, secretary; (standing, from left) **Isaac McFarland**, Keithville; **Destiny Jones**, Ruston; **Zachary Brasseaux**, Longville; **Nancy Bickham**, Saint Francisville; **Katelyn Corsentino**, Denham Springs; **Lee Hymel**, Vacherie; **Jacob Chicola**, Deville; **Kealy Stelly**, Opelousas; and **Haze Hebert**, Duson.

