



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights. Compiled by **Katie Gazda**.

The next 21 years of your life ...

Everyone who is involved with the NJAA has become very familiar with a slogan that to me best describes the NJAA, "The best 21 years of your life!" I agree entirely with this, and I encourage you to take full advantage of these years. But, what many do not realize is just how much the NJAA has to offer to members of all ages.

The NJAA is more.

The NJAA is much more than just being a part of the largest single-breed beef organization in the world. It is also lasting friendships, countless memories



Austin Brandt

and leadership opportunities, an endless source of contacts, professionalism and much more. This can be a little overwhelming to some, so I hope to give you just a taste of each program offered by the

NJAA to enlighten you on each of their many benefits.

The National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) — The NJAS is one of the largest single-breed beef shows in the world. While it is an amazing thing to be a part of it in itself, there is much more beneath the surface. There are many contests offered at the NJAS, from livestock judging to creative writing, and from extemporaneous speaking to team sales. All of these contests require you to enhance skills that can be used later in life, whether you are a small-town farmer or a big-city doctor. The mentoring program is a great way for younger members to get involved, make new friends, learn about the association and just have fun. The Angus Foundation Golf Tournament is a fun and relaxing way to support the Angus Foundation, as well as the NJAA. And there are the socials — I believe this is said best by Jason Aldean in his song *My Kinda Party*: "I worked all week, cleaned up, clean-cut and clean-shaved ..." Go ahead and have fun. You deserve it! Of course, we can't forget about the cattle show.

Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) **Conference** — LEAD is a chance for you to relax, get away from home, be with friends and learn about the NJAA, professionalism, the beef industry and

agriculture in different parts of the country. Workshops, tours, speakers and more will give you insight into many different areas. Whether it is learning how to dress properly for an interview, touring a tobacco farm in Tennessee or listening to an entertaining speaker, the exciting times and learning opportunities are plentiful at LEAD!

Raising the Bar — Raising the Bar is focused toward the older NJAA members and leaders in your state associations. It is geared toward team-building, leadership abilities and enhancing professionalism. Raising the Bar is not only beneficial for use in the NJAA, but also for college and beyond.

Internships — While there is only one internship specific to the NJAA, the internships that become available to you through the NJAA and the American Angus Association are numerous. These internships give young men and women firsthand experience of what it is like to be in the field of work for which they are striving.

Scholarships — There are not enough words that could express the gracious donations of many organizations, associations, ranches and individuals, given to help you reach and surpass your goals. I strongly encourage you to seek out these opportunities and thank the many who have made them possible.

In closing, from National Junior Angus Show to scholarship opportunities, the NJAA is not only a way to have "The best 21 years of your life," but it is also a way to prepare for "The next 21 years of your life!"

— **Austin Brandt, Iowa**

NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

► Oklahoma Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, May 6, Stillwater



► Recognized as Oklahoma Angus royalty are (from left) **Taylor Mouse**, Elk City, first runner-up; **Katie Lippoldt**, Kingfisher, 2010 Miss Oklahoma Angus; and **Karisa Pfeiffer**, Orlando, 2011 Miss Oklahoma Angus.



► **Tessa Stehr**, Altus, received the Oklahoma Angus Ass'n Jr. Traveling Trophy for her bred-and-owned heifer of the year. Pictured are (from left) **Phil Stehr**, accepting for Tessa Stehr, and **Jason Shepard**, Oklahoma Angus Ass'n president, presenting the award.

Missouri's West Plains High School FFA Chapter wins 2011 FFA Chapter Challenge sponsored by Monsanto

Missouri's West Plains High School FFA chapter has won the grand prize worth more than \$8,000 in the 2011 FFA Chapter Challenge, a seven-state competition sponsored by Monsanto that encouraged FFA chapters to make new connections with farmers in their local communities.

The chapter will be able to send six students and an adult advisor on an all-expenses-paid trip to the 2011 National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Ind. It will also receive \$1,500 in credit with the National FFA Organization to help pay for FFA-related activities and expenses throughout the year.

"The inaugural FFA Chapter Challenge has been an overwhelming success," said National FFA Foundation executive director Rob Cooper. "Thousands of FFA members made positive connections with local farmers. The intent of the challenge was to encourage FFA members [to] meet their area farmers, learn about their business and connect with them — and in many cases reconnect with them because students found out that many of their local farmers are former FFA members. We are thrilled with the level of participation among students and farmers and look forward to staging a larger campaign with Monsanto next year, inviting even more FFA chapters to compete."

DV Auction and Texas A&M debut world's first virtual livestock Judging website

DV Auction and the Texas A&M Livestock Judging Team announce the launch of www.elitelivestockjudging.com, a web-based livestock judging website that educates youth about the principles of livestock judging through the interactive use of web-based videos.

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► **Karisa Pfeiffer** (left), Orlando, receives the Oklahoma Angus Ass'n Jr. Traveling Trophy for her owned heifer of the year from Jason Shepard, Oklahoma Angus Ass'n president.

▶ Michigan Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 13, Jackson



▶ The Michigan Jr. Angus Ass'n officers and directors are (seated, from left) **Justin Kennedy**, Nashville, president; **Chelsea Ruggles**, Kingston, vice president; **Patricia Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, secretary; **Justin Ruggles**, Kingston, treasurer; **Rachel Reid**, Eaton Rapids, director of awards; (standing, from left) **Dylan Kennedy**, Nashville; **Kollin Johnson**, Quincy; and **Kendra Merriman** and **Dee Anne Merriman**, both of Lowell.



▶ Winning Certificate of Achievement awards are (from left) **Dylan Kennedy**, Nashville; **Justin Ruggles** and **Chelsea Ruggles**, both of Kingston; **Rachel Reid**, Eaton Rapids; **Patricia Vaassen**, Ann Arbor; **Justin Kennedy**, Nashville; **Kavina Johnson**, Quincy; **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell; **Kollin Johnson**, Quincy; **Katrena Klopfenstein**, Galien; and **Dee Anne Merriman**, Lowell.



▶ Receiving Premier Jr. Breeder awards are (seated, from left) **Patricia Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, first; **Kollin Johnson**, second, and **Kavina Johnson**, third, both of Quincy; **Dee Anne Merriman**, Lowell, fourth; **Justin Kennedy**, Nashville, fifth; and (standing) **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell, honorable mention.



▶ Winning Premier Jr. Exhibitor awards are (seated, from left) **Dylan Kennedy**, Nashville, first; **Patricia Vaassen**, Ann Arbor, second; **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell, third; **Justin Kennedy**, Nashville, fourth; **Katrena Klopfenstein**, Galien, fifth; (standing, from left) honorable mention recipients **Kavina Johnson**, Quincy; **Dee Anne Merriman**, Lowell; and **Kollin Johnson**, Quincy.



▶ Recognized as Michigan Angus royalty are (from left) **Kendra Merriman**, 2011 Miss Michigan Angus, and **Dee Anne Merriman**, Michigan Angus ambassador, both of Lowell; and **Katie Reid**, Eaton Rapids, Michigan Angus ambassador.



▶ **Kavina Johnson** (right), Quincy, receives the Outstanding Jr. Member award from **Kollin Johnson**.

This website features multiple-angle videos of individual animals in each class, class placings links, and in-depth reasons videos courtesy of the Texas A&M Livestock Judging Team.

Individuals, 4-H clubs and FFA chapters can purchase a year-long subscription to the service, to which video content is updated frequently.

“This innovative service allows youth across the world to participate in livestock judging in a convenient and cost-effective manner. With the dramatic increase in web-based technology acceptance in agriculture, we are excited to do our part in assisting in the education of future livestock producers through this exciting avenue,” reports Brett Spader, director of marketing and special services for DV Auction.

This service is a valuable resource for youth in the livestock industry, according to Texas A&M Livestock Judging Team coach Jake Franke. “In today’s competitive livestock judging world, every learning opportunity must be utilized to ensure success. www.elitelivestockjudging.com creates a valuable resource to learn from some of the best in the business.”

To find out more, visit the site or contact Spader at brett@dvauction.com or 785-633-5512.

Quality Counts verification to be required for all 2012 major Texas livestock shows

Starting in 2012, Quality Counts verification will be required for all youth exhibiting livestock — market and/or breeding — at major livestock shows in Texas, according to Kevin Chilek, Texas AgriLife Extension Service 4-H specialist in College Station.

The shows that will require the verification are the Fort Worth Livestock Show, San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, Star of Texas Fair in Austin, San Angelo Livestock Show, Sandhills Stock Show in Odessa, State Fair of Texas in Dallas, and Heart O’ Texas Fair in Waco, Burkham said.

The verification process will require junior exhibitors to pass an online test that measures their knowledge on quality assurance and character education content items, Chilek said.

To learn more about Quality Counts, including the verification process, visit <http://qualitycounts.tamu.edu/>.

For more information, contact an AgriLife Extension county agent or agricultural science teacher.



Black Hills Angus Ass’n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Jan. 30, Rapid City, S.D.

► **Skip Littau**, Carter, S.D., was honored as the scholarship recipient. Pictured are (from left) Larry Stomprud and Michael Baker, committee members; Littau; Seth Weishaar, committee member; and T.J. Gabriel, BHAA president.



Western Regional Jr. Angus Show, April 30, Reno, Nev.



► **Shane Kerner**, Weiser, Idaho, was crowned the 2011-2012 Western States Angus queen. Pictured are (from left) **Paige Wallace**, Miss American Angus; **Callie Hanson**, Newport, Wash., Washington Angus queen; **Kerner**; and **Michelle Malson**, Parma, Idaho, 2010-2011 Western States Angus queen.



► Receiving Western States Angus Auxiliary scholarships are (from left) Elsie Covey, Western States Angus Auxiliary representative; **Cole Page**, Kalama, Wash., perpetuating memorial scholarship recipient; **Shane Kerner**, Weiser, Idaho, scholarship recipient; **Savannah Levisay**, Creston, Calif., scholarship recipient; **Michelle Malson**, Parma, Idaho, Grand Sierra scholarship recipient; and Carla Malson, Western States Angus Auxiliary representative.

Mississippi Angus Ass’n Meeting & Banquet, May 6, Raymond

► Receiving Mississippi Angus Auxiliary achievement awards are (from left) Melanie Kiani, Mississippi Angus Auxiliary; **Hayden Neal**, Forest, recipient; **Matti Parkman**, Pulaski, recipient; **Gabrielle Simpson**, Tupelo, recipient; and **Brent Moore**, Mantachie, recipient.

