



# Next Generation

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

## Animal welfare

*During the past 10 years, it has been hard to go a week without opening a newspaper, reading a blog or watching the television without seeing something that is correlated with animal ethics, animal rights or animal welfare. Since the beginning of time, people have been obligated to utilize livestock as a source for food or fiber. However, as time has progressed, what once was a thriving rural community with many family farms now is called urban sprawl as many people find themselves migrating to the cities in search of jobs.*

### Lost connection

There's no question that as many families moved to the sprawling cities, their connection with agriculture has diminished. The majority of the population was used to using livestock and agricultural products to sustain life, and understood the processes in which these products were manufactured.

However, now their children's children are becoming adults in the world, and with the distance from agricultural processes and the loss of the mutual understanding of food production, the majority has switched to feeling sorry for these animals and the way they are produced. The United States and its farming subsidiaries face the challenge of re-informing and re-educating the active public on where and how their food is generated.

Daniel Stein at Oklahoma State



Garrett Knebel

University (OSU) discussed the idea of animal rights and welfare, and how that ties into the current hot debate that is being contested today. He mentioned the start of such ideas originated in Europe, where today production practices are far more supervised.

### Animals' freedoms

He said that in December of 1965, according to the Bram Bell Report, the United Kingdom's government assembled a technical committee to investigate the freedoms that animals should be entitled to. They came up with five: to stand up, to lie down, to turn around, to groom themselves and to stretch their limbs.

In 1979, the Farm Animal Welfare Council made recommendations back to the government in order for them to construct some simple laws that governed the welfare of animals.

They made five amendments: the freedom from hunger and thirst; from discomfort; from pain, injury and disease; to express normal behavior; and from fear and distress.

This brings up the word sentience, meaning the ability to feel or perceive, or the ability to experience pleasure or pain.

In the United States, the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology came up with a statement addressing animal welfare, stating that the necessary and sufficient conditions for attributing positive welfare to an animal were represented through an animal's productivity.

In 2008, at an American Society of Animal Science (ASAS) meeting, David Fraser from the University of British Columbia stated that we are obliged to give animals four things: maintain basic animal health, reduce pain and suffering, accommodate natural behaviors and affectionate states, and provide natural elements in the environment.

### Animals in production

Perhaps most importantly, it becomes pertinent for us today to address this question: How should we assess animal state of being in production? It can be viewed in three different ways. The first, animal welfare has "all to do with the way the animal feels" as the central concept. The second, animal welfare is "functional based," with emphasis placed on biological functions. The third, animal welfare is "nature-based" and performance of natural species-typical behavior is most important.

An important concept to understand is what happens when animals are domesticated. Their movements are restricted through fences, crates or cages. Their breeding is controlled. Survival patterns are changed and the weak are protected, as opposed to "survival of the fittest." Traits are selected that fit the producer and the production system. Feeding levels are altered and controlled. Health problems and parasites may increase. Stress is usually increased.

In 1960, approximately 80% of veterinarians were employed by agriculture. Currently, less than 8% are employed through agriculture. This comes as a result of a change in demographics. Since the population is removed from animals and animal life, do we as a society have a desire or longing for closer interaction with animals?

Finally, I will just simply leave you with some simple facts as to why animals are

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currently viewed to have more rights. The media has discovered that animals sell. I've heard numerous people speak about the effects that Walt Disney has had on the population as a whole.

Anthropomorphism is giving animals human characteristics. This has only helped the American public believe that animals are as neurologically capable as humans. The United States has had 50 years of ethical priming. Everyone is believed to have certain inalienable rights. Those rights can often be compared to those of humans. The nature of animal use has changed.

I found this especially alarming, as I have had inner conflicts about such topics myself. The academic world as a whole has moved toward science and technology. My bachelor's degree is animal science. However, it used to be called animal husbandry. Which title has the better tone with regard to ensuring the public that care hasn't been revoked in the animal industry?

— **Garrett Knebel, Indiana**

### **FFA New Century Farmer program**

Two National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members were selected to participate in the 2012 New Century Farmer Program through the National FFA Organization, designed to develop young adults committed to a career in production agriculture.

**Andrew Perry**, Columbia, Mo., and **Joy Powers**, Moneta, Va., will travel to Johnston, Iowa, July 8-14.

Program topics include the global marketplace, farm financing, demographic trends and risk management. They will also experience the latest developments in agricultural technology. These two NJAA members will be able to network with colleagues from 24 states with similar agricultural goals.

### **Accelerated Genetics scholarship**

NJAA member **Kyle Tate**, Mountain Grove, Mo., was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from Accelerated Genetics. Accelerated Genetics and the National FFA Organization worked together to select him as a scholarship recipient.

Tate is majoring in animal breeding and genetics at Colorado State University—Fort Collins.

"Youth are the foundation of the future of the agricultural industry and Accelerated Genetics wants to ensure that the next generation is well-prepared," says Joel Groskreutz, Accelerated Genetics president and CEO.

### **Growmark summer intern**

Recent NJAA member **Courtney Jass**, daughter of Mark and Beth Jass of Garner,

Iowa, is interning with AgVantage FS, a cooperative of Growmark. She is an ag business major at Iowa State University.

She will be exposed to accounting, marketing, communications, product and service-related activities. The full group of interns attended an orientation program at the Growmark corporate office in May, and will reconvene in June for an agribusiness tour. Each intern will complete a special project and deliver a presentation on that project in August.

### **Bronze and Silver awards**

Seven juniors have earned their Bronze and Silver awards. Trenton Blythe, White City, Kan.; Shane Heizer, Hagerstown, Md.; Destiny McCauley, Bowling Green, Fla.; Kelsey Repenning, Mitchell, S.D.; Emily Scholtz, Comfrey, Minn.; Madeline Taylor, Lavaca, Ark.; and Drew Williams, Milan, Ga., earned these two awards.

**Blythe**, the 17-year-old son of Duane and Debbie Lyons-Blythe, attends White City High School and is a member of the NJAA and Kansas Junior Angus Association, where he has served as district director, membership director and secretary.

He has participated in local, state, regional and national shows. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Blythe participated in the quiz bowl and livestock judging contests. He has also participated in the mentoring program in 2005, the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference and the Raising the Bar Conference in 2010.

He has submitted weight data to the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®).

**Heizer**, the 16-year-old son of John and Mary Heizer, attends Smithsburg High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Maryland Junior Angus Association, where he served as the communications officer in 2011.

He has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship competitions. He participated in LEAD in 2010.

He has also consigned cattle to The Angus Event Maryland State Sale.

**McCauley**, the 17-year-old daughter of Tim and Nell McCauley, attends Hardee Senior High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Florida Junior Angus Association.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship competitions. At the NJAS, McCauley participated in the poster, photography, writing, prepared and extemporaneous public speaking, quiz bowl and livestock judging contests, and was the state's voting

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delegate and participated in the mentoring program in 2011.

She has submitted weights to AHIR and consigned cattle to the Georgia Beef Expo in 2012.

**Repenning**, the 17-year-old daughter of Steve and Lori Repenning, attends Mitchell High School and is a member of the NJAA. She is a scholarship recipient of the South Dakota Angus Auxiliary.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship competitions. At the NJAS, Repenning participated in the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*<sup>®</sup> (CAB<sup>®</sup>) Cook-Off, public speaking and team fitting contests, and was a mentoring program participant.

She has submitted weights to AHIR and consigned cattle to the Blacktop Farms Bull Sale.

**Scholtz**, the 19-year-old daughter of Greg and Kari Scholtz attends South Dakota State University in Brookings, S.D., where she is studying animal science. She is a member of the NJAA and the Minnesota Junior Angus Association, where she served as vice president in 2011 and queen in 2009 and 2010.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship competitions. At the NJAS, Scholtz participated in the Cook-Off, quiz bowl and livestock judging contests.

In 2009, she participated in LEAD.

She has submitted weights to AHIR and consigned cattle to the MBCIA Bull Test Sale in Jackson, Minn.

**Taylor**, the 17-year-old daughter of Rick and Susan Taylor attends Greenwood High School and is a member of the NJAA and Arkansas Junior Angus Association, where she has served as director, reporter and royalty.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows. At the NJAS, Taylor participated in the Cook-Off and photo contests. She has also participated in the mentoring program in 2006 and the LEAD conference from 2007 to 2011.

She has consigned cattle to the Belle Point Ranch sale.

**Williams**, the 15-year-old son of Doug and Tammy Williams is a member of the NJAA and Georgia Junior Angus Association. He has participated in national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS,

Williams participated in the Cook-Off, quiz bowl, creative writing, team fitting, team sales and livestock judging contests. He also participated in the mentoring program in 2008. In 2012, he participated in the Raising the Bar Conference and consigned cattle to the Turnpike Creek Sale.

He has submitted weight data to AHIR.

The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the NJAA Recognition Program that began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders must apply for the awards, then meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving the honors. Applicants are evaluated in areas of junior Angus association activities and leadership, participation in showmanship, contests and shows, using performance testing to improve their herd and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.



**Editor's Note:** This column is compiled by Associate Editor Kasey Miller. To submit your "Next Generation" item, email [kaseymiller@angusjournal.com](mailto:kaseymiller@angusjournal.com) or call 816-383-5277.

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