



Next Generation

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

LEAD by example: How to become a better cattleman

Are you a cattle producer? Better yet, are you a young cattle producer? Do you ever ask yourself what you can do to make a difference in the beef industry? I used to catch myself asking this question quite frequently. I am just an ordinary 20-year-old who has an itch to “change the world,” but there surely isn’t any way I can make a difference. Right? Wrong!

A new mind-set

After attending countless leadership conferences, listening to professionals speak at special events, sitting through more lectures than I care to count, and spending time with farmers and ranchers much older and wiser than I, I realized what I can do to make a difference. I must become a better cattlemaster and LEAD by example.



Lindsey Grimes

I have decided the four things I can do that will make me a better cattlemaster and will allow me to make a difference in the beef industry are:

- Learn about my herd;
- Educate myself about current issues;
- Always be an agricultural advocate; and
- Don’t give in to “fads” or “trends” in the industry.

Learn about my herd. The first step in

leading by example is to learn about the strengths and weaknesses in my herd. I must decide what the purpose of my herd is and then determine which characteristics I want to keep and which ones need improving. I also need to decide if I have the proper nutrition and management plan to allow my stock to perform to their highest potential.

What good are elite genetics if I am not managing them correctly? It’s all about being proactive and doing your best to keep improving your herd. There aren’t any “no farmer left behind” programs in the beef industry.

Learn about current issues. After assessing the status of my herd, I must take time to research some of the most current and pertinent issues in agriculture. For example, current grain prices, futures markets, new technologies and/or new legislation are all issues that can affect my operation. The unique thing about agriculture is that all of its different sectors are deeply intertwined, and when one sector undergoes big changes, all of them do.

Therefore you must have a solid understanding of current issues in agriculture so you are capable of making necessary changes and adaptations.

Be an ag advocate. The one thing I think is most important to becoming a better cattlemaster or woman is always being an advocate for agriculture. I know if you have heard it once you have heard it a thousand times, but that is because it is the best way to share our story with the public.

I realize it is our job as cattle producers to raise and provide a wholesome product that we wouldn’t hesitate to feed our families. However, consumers are our “boss,” and we must do our best to meet their wants and needs. We must make them feel like they are a part of the production process by letting them know every step and detail. Honesty is the best policy, and it is our only hope of overcoming the constant criticism of activist groups.

Don’t give in to fads. Finally, the last step to becoming a better cattlemaster or woman is to take pride in what you do, and never let anyone or anything change your way of doing things. Our parents taught us when we were young not to give in to peer pressure, and the same goes for raising beef cattle. Don’t give in to fads or new cool trends.

There is a reason the oldest and most successful operations are known as the oldest and most successful. They put in the time and effort to figure out how to improve their herd, found ways to make it profitable and maintained the same philosophy for decades to follow. Why isn’t everyone else taking this approach?

The key to becoming a better cattlemaster or woman is, in fact, very easy. It involves four simple steps, and after you complete these easy steps, all you have to do is continue to LEAD by example. Being young doesn’t mean you can’t make a difference. After all, we are the future of agriculture, and it’s never too early to start making a name for yourself.

— Lindsey Grimes, Ohio

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Avery Bates earns NJAA Bronze and Silver awards

Avery Bates, Manhattan, Mont., has earned the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards. The 12-year-old son of Daniel and

Amber Bates is a member of the NJAA and the Montana Junior Angus Association. He has participated in local, state, regional and national shows. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Avery participated in the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) Cook-Off. He also participated in the mentoring program in 2010.

He has submitted weight data to Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR[®]) and has consigned cattle at the South Montana Angus Association Sale.

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.

Six youth receive \$1,000 scholarships from PLA

Six outstanding youth received \$1,000 scholarships from the Pennsylvania Livestock Association (PLA) based on leadership skills, a keen interest in the livestock industry, involvement in the Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE) and support of PLA.

Pennsylvania Ag Secretary George Greig and PLA President Brian Kreider presented the awards at the opening ceremony of the 55th KILE Thursday, Oct. 6, at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex and Expo Center in Harrisburg.

Recipients were Katie Harvison, Troy Longenecker, and NJAA members Kate Livingston, Morgan Livingston, Ryan Nolt and Lindsay Upperman.



► **Kate Livingston**, Dover, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the PLA. Pictured are (from left) Pennsylvania Ag Secretary George Greig; Nancy, Kate and Tim Livingston; and PLA President Brian Kreider.



► **Ryan Nolt**, New Holland, received a \$1,000 scholarship from the PLA. Pictured are (from left) Greig; Charlene, Eugene and Ryan Nolt; and Kreider.

Kate is the daughter of Tim and Nancy Livingston of Dover. A 2010 graduate of Dover Area High School, Kate is a sophomore at Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) majoring in ag education with a minor in animal science. She plans to return to her family livestock and crop operation upon graduation.

She has been an active member and leader of the York County 4-H program, serving as a national delegate and member of the 2009 State 4-H Livestock Judging Team, in addition to the Beef Club, Davidsburg Club, County Council and Senior Exchange. Kate is also active in the Dover FFA chapter and has earned many chapter degrees.

She developed her own herd of Angus and Shorthorn cattle, exhibiting them as well as market swine and lambs. Kate's involvement in KILE is extensive. She has shown beef cattle at the event since 2004 and earned the 2009 KILE Outstanding 4-H Award. Kate is a member of the state and national junior Angus associations.

Morgan is the daughter of Bob and Darlene Livingston of Spring Grove. She is a student at Shippensburg University studying social work with plans to become a counselor. She is active in the HOPE Social

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► Mississippi Angus Preview Show, Oct. 9, Jackson



► Mississippi Angus royalty include (front row, from left) **Kayla Fortenberry**, Philadelphia, and **Halley Walker**, Potts Camp, 2011 junior princesses; (back row, from left) **Hayden Neal**, Forest, and **Matti Parkman**, Pulaski, 2010 princesses; **Jessica Swinney**, Kosciusko, 2010 queen; **Ashton Gandy**, Potts Camp, 2011 queen; and 2011 princesses **Gabrielle Simpson**, Tupelo; **Karlea Dixon**, Sontag; **Brittney Amey**, Saucier; **Emma O'Neal**, Senatobia; and **Chloe Pinter**, Philadelphia.

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Work Organization, Campus Ministry, Circle K Volunteer Club and volunteers at a local pregnancy center.

A third-generation exhibitor at KILE, Morgan has shown swine and beef cattle. She is a member of the York County 4-H beef and swine clubs as well as the Loganville 4-H Club, where she serves as president and has represented York County at the National 4-H Congress. She is a member of the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association and served as Youth Chair of

the Education Committee for the 2011 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Morgan maintains a small registered Angus herd and has seen many showring accomplishments with these bred-and-owned cattle.

Ryan is the son of Eugene and Charlene Nolt of New Holland. A junior at Penn State, Ryan is studying animal science with ambitions to work in the livestock industry. Ryan is an integral part of his family's farm operation, which includes hog finishing, tobacco production and beef cattle. He grew up in the 4-H program and has shown market steers and breeding animals at local,

state, regional and national shows, including KILE.

A member of the Garden Spot FFA chapter, Ryan earned many degrees and participated in livestock and poultry judging. This past summer, Ryan took one step closer to his goal of becoming an "influential and helpful part of the agriculture industry," by serving as an intern at Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica Inc.

Lindsay is the daughter of Steve and Jane Upperman of Chambersburg. Valedictorian of her class at James Buchanan High School, Lindsay is now a student at Butler Community College in El Dorado, Kan.,

studying animal sciences. Her ultimate goal is to become a research geneticist. An active member of the Franklin County 4-H, Lindsay has held many offices, been a camp counselor and participated in exchanges.

She has been most proud of her success with her bred-and-owned Angus cattle, including having the grand champion bred-and-owned heifer at the 2010 KILE. Lindsay has been an active member of the state and American Angus associations, including serving as Pennsylvania Angus Queen. Most recently, she served as the junior fundraising chair for the NJAS in Harrisburg.

Chester, York County youth earn KILE stockman honors

A 4-H team from Chester and York counties, including three NJAA members, took home top honors during the 34th Keystone Stockman's Contest Friday, Oct. 7, during the Keystone International Livestock Exposition. The four-member team included NJAA members Morgan Livingston, Garrett Livingston and Sarah Nafziger, and teammate Joy Beam.

Nafziger, who led the first-place team, was named Keystone Junior Stockman of the Year. The other top five individual finishers

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► The top five finishers in the 2011 Keystone Stockman's Contest are (from left) Coy Warner, fifth, Mineral Co. 4-H team; **William Woodworth**, fourth, Mineral Co. 4-H team; and **Garrett Livingston**, third, **Morgan Livingston**, second, and **Sarah Nafziger**, first, all of the Chester-York 4-H team.

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receiving cash prizes from \$55 to \$70 were: second, Morgan Livingston; third, Garrett Livingston; fourth, William Woodworth, Mineral County 4-H team, W.Va.; fifth, Coy Warner, Mineral County 4-H team. The top four individuals were NJAA members.

One hundred teams, including 347 individuals, from Indiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia competed in 12 judging classes, including livestock, identification, management and meat. The five contestants with the highest individual scores were interviewed about current events in the livestock industry to determine the final results.

Agri-Olympics test kids' competitive spirit at KILE

Children got competitive during the Agri-Kid Olympics at KILE, Saturday, Oct. 8, in Harrisburg. Twenty children participated in the hay-bale toss, horseshoe toss and the wheelbarrow race. The competition heated up during the pedal power pull contest. Each child had to pull 75 pounds (lb.) on a pedal tractor. Thirty-four feet (ft.) qualified as a full pull; those children were then qualified to pull again with an additional 5 lb. in tow.

One family of NJAA members was among the winners. Joshua Vogelaar, Far Hills, N.J., in the 9-10-year-old division, won second place in the pedal pull with a pull of 28 ft., 10 inches (in.), fourth place in the wheelbarrow race, third place in the bale toss, and fourth

place in the horseshoe toss. Melissa Vogelaar, Far Hills, in the 9-10-year-old division, won first place in the wheelbarrow race, first place in the bale toss, first place in the horseshoe toss and was named the overall 9 and older champion. Though not a member, younger brother Nathan Vogelaar, in the 5-6-year-old category, won fifth place in the horseshoe toss.

Franklin, Juniata County junior beef exhibitors earn scholarships at KILE

Franklin and Juniata county college students were awarded educational scholarships sponsored by the KILE Beef Committee at the annual show, Saturday, Oct. 8.

Junior member Lindsay Upperman, Chambersburg, received a \$1,000 scholarship, and Emily Benner, Mifflintown, was awarded a \$500 scholarship following the junior beef benefit auction.

More than 200 junior beef exhibitors participate in KILE each year. The scholarship was created in 2006 by the KILE Beef Committee to recognize beef youth's commitment to the agricultural industry and help them pay for college. A percentage of the proceeds raised from the Youth Beef Benefit Auction are dedicated to the scholarship fund.

Twenty-three lots sold in the auction, generating \$4,713. Benner purchased the top-selling item, an embryo package donated by Masonic Village, for \$1,200.

To qualify for the scholarship, applicants must have exhibited beef cattle in the junior beef show at KILE for at least one year since 2005. Applicants must be enrolled in a degree or certificate program at a post-secondary

educational institution (college, university, trade or technical school). Awards are based on academics, community leadership, agricultural activities and KILE involvement.

Six elected National FFA officers for 2011-2012

Six students from throughout the country were elected National FFA officers for 2011-2012, an announcement made to a packed house of FFA members at Conseco Fieldhouse Oct. 22 to officially close the 84th National FFA Convention. Ryan Best,



▶ Cain Thurmond, Jefferson, Ga., will serve as 2011-2012 National FFA Southern Region vice president.

New Mexico; Jason Troendle, Minnesota; Kenneth Quick Jr., New York; Alicia Hodnik, Wisconsin; NJAA member Cain Thurmond, Georgia; and Seth Pratt, Idaho, have been elected National FFA officers.

Thurmond, of Jefferson, Ga., will serve as National FFA Southern Region vice president. The son of Phil and Susie Thurmond, he is a freshman at the University of Georgia majoring in agricultural and applied economics. Thurmond is a member of the Jefferson High School FFA chapter in Jefferson.

For the next year, the national officer team members will be the face and spirit of FFA. Collectively, they'll travel more than 100,000 miles throughout the country as they engage top leaders in business, government and education and lead a host of personal growth and leadership training seminars for FFA members. The team will also help set policies that will shape the future of the National FFA Organization and promote agricultural literacy in general.

Nominees for national office must first qualify at the state level to represent their state FFA association. They must submit a detailed application that highlights their academic accomplishments and showcases contributions to their local communities. Those seeking national office must also submit an essay that explains their desire to be elected to national office.

At the national FFA convention, candidates participate in five rounds of interviews, take an in-depth written test and complete two writing exercises. A panel of nine state FFA officers comprises a nominating committee that recommends the six national FFA officers to a group of 450 FFA convention delegates.

