



# Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights. Compiled by **Shelby Mettlen**, assistant editor.

## The dreamer

*Just as Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "I have a dream," I did too. I remember it like it was yesterday; I was just a small boy with big dreams. Boy, was I a dreamer all right! It was always my intention to become a professional baseball player, because just like many other 5-year-old boys, I wanted to be that hometown hero that every little kid looked up to. I didn't fulfill my dream of becoming a pro baseball player; however, little did I know then, I'd become a role model for more than just the kids in my hometown.*

### The best

Growing up, I always had a feel for the game of baseball; it was in my blood. I wanted to be the best pitcher, the best fielder and the best hitter. I wanted to be the fastest runner, too, but I didn't quite inherit that trait. As I grew older, my dream never changed. I wanted to be the best.

I became determined that I would someday find a way to accomplish my lifelong passion of playing the game I love for the rest of my life. However, as I started to realize my dream was slowly becoming unattainable, I found my passion in something else: the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

Through my time on the NJAA Board of Directors, I have made some of the fondest memories and have met some of the most influential people I have ever had the privilege of meeting. I couldn't think of a better way of spending the last two years and fulfilling a dream of being a "hometown



**Braden Henricks**

hero" for youth all over the country. It really puts life into perspective when you can serve thousands of juniors with 17 of your best friends

I've always been told that when something comes to an end, it opens the door for a new beginning. I am truly blessed to be a part of such an impeccable breed as the Angus breed that has made the biggest impact in my life. I hope that through life's journey, I can continue to serve the members of our junior Association even when my time in the green jacket is up. I will end with this: "Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step."

— **Braden Henricks, Oklahoma**

### Juniors earn Bronze and Silver Awards

Three juniors, including **Reagan Skow**, Palisade, Neb., **Caroline Cowles**, Rockfield, Ky., and **Olivia Johnson**, Prole, Iowa, have earned the NJAA's Bronze and Silver awards, according to Jaclyn Clark, education and events director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo.

**Reagan Skow**, the 16-year-old daughter of Brian and Tiffany Stoller, attends Wauneta-Palisade High School and is a

member of the NJAA and the Nebraska Junior Angus Association, where she serves as director.

She has participated in state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Reagan participated in the extemporaneous speaking, quiz bowl, livestock judging and team sales contests and the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*<sup>®</sup> Cook-Off. She also participated in the mentoring program in 2010 and 2011. In 2016 she served as a voting delegate. She was also a participant in the 2015 and 2016 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences.

Reagan has submitted weight data to Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR<sup>®</sup>) and has consigned cattle at the Bear Mountain Angus annual sales.

**Caroline Cowles**, the 17-year-old daughter of Gil and Mary Cowles, attends Ensworth High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Kentucky Junior Angus Association, where she has served as director and currently serves as secretary and royalty. She also serves as secretary for the Atlantic National Junior Board of Directors.

Caroline has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, she participated in the extemporaneous speaking, quiz bowl, livestock judging and photography contests and the cook-off. She also participated in the mentoring program in 2011, 2013 and 2016. In 2016 Caroline served as a voting delegate. She has also participated in the LEAD conference from 2013 to 2016 and the Raising the Bar conference in 2015 and 2016.

**Olivia Johnson**, the 16-year-old daughter of Eric and Kelly Johnson, attends Martensdale-St. Mary's Community School and is a member of the NJAA and the Iowa Junior Angus Association, which she has served as director and royalty.

Olivia has participated in national shows and local and state showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), she participated in the extemporaneous speaking, quiz bowl and livestock judging contests. She also participated in the 2014 LEAD conference.

The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the NJAA Recognition Program that began in 1972. Junior Angus

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Visit the NJAA web site at [www.njaa.info](http://www.njaa.info).

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 herds; and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

The NJAA promotes the involvement of young people in raising Angus cattle, while also providing leadership and self-development opportunities for the nearly 6,000 active members nationwide.

### Friends of the California State Fair offer scholarships

Friends of the California State Fair is accepting scholarship applications for the 2017-2018 academic school year. The application is available at [www.castatefair.org](http://www.castatefair.org). Scholarships will be awarded in the following areas: academic achievement, agriculture, business, the arts, culinary/hospitality/event planning, fair industry, international agricultural trade, State Fair past exhibitor/student assistant, viticulture/enology, teacher preparation, and trade school.

This program seeks to motivate well-rounded and high academic achievers that

### 2016 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Jr. Angus Heifer Show, Nov. 13, Louisville, Ky.



► **Caroline Cowles** (right), Rockfield, Ky., receives her Bronze and Silver awards from National Junior Angus Board director **Corbin Cowles**.

will be enrolled in a four-year accredited college/university, community college or trade school program in the state of California for the 2017-2018 school year. Applications are due Thursday, March 2, 2017. Applicants will be evaluated on the basis of personal commitment, goals established for their chosen fields, leadership potential and civic accomplishments. The overall outstanding candidate will receive an additional \$5,000 from the Ironstone

Concours Foundation/Friends of the California State Fair.

The Friends of the Fair Scholarship Program was initiated in 1993 and is a collaborative project of the California State Fair, the California Agricultural Advisory Council, the State Fair Gala Committee, and the Friends of the California State Fair. The recipients of the scholarships will be honored at the Friends of the California State Fair Gala in June 2017.

Information about categories, eligibility and the application process can be found at [www.castatefair.org](http://www.castatefair.org). Additional questions can be directed to Natalie Minas at 916-263-3277 or [scholarship@calexpo.com](mailto:scholarship@calexpo.com)

The Friends of the California State Fair is a charitable, nonprofit, volunteer organization that supports programs and education initiatives at the California Exposition State Fair. For nearly three decades the Friends of the California State Fair have supported California students through their scholarship program. In 2016, 22 students representing 21 California cities were awarded \$46,500, including a \$5,000 scholarship from Ironstone Concours Foundation/Friends of the California State Fair awarded to Brandon Ho from Napa, Calif.



### 2016 State Fair of Louisiana Jr. Angus Show, Oct. 27, Shreveport



► From left, Miss Louisiana Angus **Faith Guice** and **Lani LeBeouf**, Louisiana Angus princess, present top honors in peewee showmanship to **Henry Deitch**, Lake Charles. Also pictured is **Kristen Oaks-White**, judge.



► From left, Guice and LeBeouf present top junior showmanship honors to **Asher Shepherd**, Lake Charles, fifth; **Morgan Greene**, Slaughter, fourth; **Austin Purpera**, Plaquemine, third; **Regan Greene**, Slaughter, second; and **Ali Conner**, Bell City, first. Also pictured is **Oaks-White**.



► From left, Miss Louisiana Angus **Faith Guice** presents top honors in intermediate showmanship to **Lily Gisclair**, Longville, third; **Kara LeBeouf**, second; and **Lani LeBeouf**, first, both of Deridder.



► From left, LeBeouf, presents top senior showmanship honors to **Callie Laird**, Bernice, fourth; **Lacey Dodson**, Haughton, third; **Olivia Shepherd**, Lake Charles, second; and **Faith Guice**, Downsville, first.



► Winning overall showmanship is **Lani LeBeouf**, Deridder, pictured with **Kristen Oaks-White** (right), judge.