



# Next Generation

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

## No comparisons

*The turkey has gobbled, the sleigh bells have ring-ting-tingled, and the New Year has been counted in. What next, Groundhog Day? It seems that we go from holiday to holiday until we are stuck with April Fool's, looking back at the joke that was the first four months of the year. Although with 2015 in the rearview mirror, I can't hold back my excitement for the upcoming year.*

### Improve yourself

Last year, I endured what many would call the sophomore slump. There was the day-to-day grind of classes and course work with many stresses of life piling on top of what I thought was a busy life. There were days I got caught looking to the left and to the right at fellow students who were “doing the same thing as me” — others with the same major or emphasis in school. I would compare myself to how they did on tests or homework, and I slowly sunk into this outward comparison of myself to others.

The sensation of sinking can happen to any of us. Whether it be a job position, athletics, the weight room or even the showing, it is important to stay focused on you. Few instances in life teach us about ourselves like struggle.

Watching others succeed at a goal that I scratched, clawed and sacrificed for definitely taught me a lot about myself. All the time spent comparing myself to others was wasted energy that should have been time spent on improving myself. When I was involved in athletics, coaches loved to say things like, “Beat the you from yesterday.”

Pretty commonsense advice, right? At the end of the day, what more can a person do than try to be a better person than they were the day before? The mixture of competitiveness and self-esteem needs to be kept in check, or many things in life stop being enjoyable.



**Alex Rogen**

In the last year, I've learned that faith, family and friends are going to be there for you regardless of your troubles. When the tough times come, know that you're not alone. Buckle down, and persevere to your goal. Working hard will get you where you want to be in the end —whether that is at the backdrop with a purple banner,

walking across the stage with a diploma, or landing your dream job. You are the only person keeping you from what you want to accomplish. Go out there, and get what is yours! Attack the New Year!

— **Alex Rogen, South Dakota**

### Bronze and Silver awards received

**Jillian Frye**, Three Forks, Mont.; **Clay Pelton**, Paradise, Kan.; **Sarah Pelton**, Paradise, Kan.; and **Colter Pohlman**, Hereford, Texas, have earned the National

Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards, according to Jaclyn Clark, education and events director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo. **Faith Massingill**, Hamilton, Texas, has earned the NJAA Silver award.

Frye, the 15-year-old daughter of Ron and Lanette Frye, attends Manhattan Christian School and is a member of the NJAA; Montana Junior Angus Association, which she served on the board of directors and as royalty; and the South Montana Angus Association.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Jillian participated in the writing and livestock judging contests.

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

Clay, the 13-year-old son of Chris and Susan Pelton, attends Paradise Junior High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Kansas Junior Angus Association.

He has participated in state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Clay participated in quiz bowl, team sales, extemporaneous speaking, livestock judging contests and the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off. He was a participant in the mentoring program in 2010 and then again in 2012-2015.

He has submitted weight data to AHIR.

Sarah, the 16-year-old daughter of Chris and Susan Pelton attends Natoma High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Kansas Junior Angus Association, which she serves as director.

She has participated in state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Sarah participated in quiz bowl, team sales, team marketing, extemporaneous speaking and livestock judging contests and the All-American CAB Cook-Off. She was a participant in the mentoring program from 2011 to 2015. She also participated in the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences in 2014 and 2015.

She has submitted weight data to AHIR.

Pohlman, the 11-year-old son of Scott and Moriah Pohlman, attends Pohlman Homeschool and is a member of the NJAA and the Texas Junior Angus Association, which he serves as director.

He has participated in local, state and

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

national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Colter participated in team sales, quiz bowl, photography and livestock judging contests. In 2014 he participated in the mentoring program. He also was a participant in the Raising the Bar conference in 2014.

Colter is actively involved in his county 4-H program.

Massingill, the 17-year-old daughter of Scott and Faith Massingill, attends Hamilton High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Texas Junior Angus Association, which she served as royalty.

She has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Faith participated in the creative writing and photography contests.

She has submitted weight data to AHIR.

### Georgia junior Angus member elected southern region vice president of 2015-2016 National FFA officer team

At the age of 12, **Abbey Gretsch** had two goals in life: take over her family's farm and follow in the footsteps of her father, Fred, a farmer in Lexington, Ga. Showing cattle brought her closer to her pursuits, but without an FFA chapter to belong to, options were limited, until a dear friend and FFA advisor changed all of that and helped to create the Athens Christian FFA.

"As a freshman in high school, I did not know where the FFA would take me," Gretsch said. "My life as a first-year FFA member was soon consumed by all things agriculture. I only wanted to grow and do more. Every year I strived for perfection even more so than I did the year before."

Gretsch was elected to the 2015-2016 National FFA Officer team as southern region vice president at the 88th National FFA Convention & Expo.

Other members of the team are Taylor McNeel of Arkansas as president, Nick Baker of Tennessee as secretary, Abrah Meyer of Iowa as central region vice president, Sydney Snider of Ohio as eastern region vice president and Sarah Draper of Utah as western region vice president.

An agricultural communications and agricultural education double major at the University of Georgia, Gretsch served as president and secretary of the Georgia Junior Angus Association and as a volunteer for several organizations, including World Changers and Hope Haven Community. She is also a member of the National Honor Society and active in Living Hope Church.

Gretsch served as the Georgia FFA vice president in 2013-2014 and in high school was named chapter president, vice president, treasurer and student advisor. Her first supervised agricultural experience (SAE) in

beef production allowed her to develop a full-scale Angus cattle herd. Her second SAE involved agricultural education placement where she developed curriculum and did various other duties in the classroom under the tutelage of her FFA advisor. Through the Agriculture Leadership, Education

and Communication Department at the University of Georgia, she works closely to assist professors with everyday computer and administrator tasks.

Upon graduation from college, Gretsch hopes to become an agriculture educator or a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

### State Fair of Louisiana Jr. Angus Show, Oct. 22, Shreveport



► Novice showmanship was won by (from left) **Miranda Graves**, Amite; **Asher Shepherd**, Lake Charles; and **Henry Deitch**, Lake Charles. Also pictured is Morgan Fruge, Miss Louisiana Angus.



► Fruge (left) presents junior showmanship honors to (continuing from left) **Dalton Jones**, Dubach, first and overall champion; **Josie Griffin**, Chestnut, second; **Allie Curole**, Chestnut, third; **Lani LeBeouf**, Deridder, fourth; **Payton Shepherd**, Lake Charles, fifth. Also pictured is Kara LeBeouf, Louisiana Angus princess.



► Fruge (left) presents senior showmanship honors to (continuing from left) **Olivia Shepherd**, Lake Charles, first; **Abigail Jenkins**, Bush, second; **Callie Laird**, Bernice, third; **Destiny Jones**, Dubach, fourth; and **Chad Walker**, Natchitoches, fifth. Also pictured is Kara LeBeouf.

member services specialist for an agricultural company.

“Within this position, I hope to instill in others the same passion and dream-achieving aspirations that FFA has always given me,” she said. “Impacts last a lifetime, and through national office, I anticipate making lasting impacts specific to agriculture.”

National officers commit to a year of service with the National FFA Organization. Each travels more than 100,000 national and international miles to interact with business and industry leaders, thousands of FFA members and teachers, corporate sponsors, government and education officials, state FFA leaders, the general public and more. The team will lead personal growth and leadership training seminars for FFA members throughout the country and help set policies that will guide the future of FFA and promote agricultural literacy.

### **Angus junior wins Animal Agriculture Alliance scholarship**

The Animal Agriculture Alliance announced the results of its seventh annual College Aggies Online (CAO) scholarship competition. The program is a nationwide initiative aimed at helping college students and collegiate agriculture clubs utilize social media and community engagement to share agriculture’s story. Junior Angus member **Jennifer Weinberg**, Bridgewater, N.J., attending George Washington University, won the second-place scholarship of \$1,000 and a trip to the Alliance’s 2016 Stakeholders Summit in Washington, D.C., to be formally recognized.

CAO is an online competition open to all college students with an interest in agriculture. Since its launch in 2009, more than 4,000 college students from more than 175 different colleges and universities have competed in the program. The Alliance wishes to thank the 2015 College Aggies Program sponsors, which include Tyson Foods Inc., Dairy Management Inc., National Pork Industry Foundation, National Turkey Federation, United Soybean Board, Ohio Poultry Association, American Dairy Science Association, Belstra Milling Co. and Pennsylvania Beef Council.

Each week, individual participants received assignments, called “Aggies Homework,” which focused on a specific social media platform or a segment of the agriculture community. This fall, CAO participants engaged with the public by using Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest and Instagram, and by writing blog posts. Additionally, industry experts hosted webinars and served as program mentors to help educate

participants about the pertinent issues facing the industry and how to communicate about those with the public.

Over the course of the competition, students generated more than 1,530 Instagram and Twitter posts and more than 530 Facebook posts. In total, there were more than 1.4 million impressions on social media.

For more information about the contest, contact Morgan Hawley, program manager, at [mhawley@animalagalliance.org](mailto:mhawley@animalagalliance.org).

### **AFA partners offer scholarships, training to agriculture students**

Graduating high school seniors and current college students studying agriculture should apply for unique scholarships offered by Agriculture Future of America (AFA) and its partners. The AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship Program provides students access to premier professional development and financial assistance for college.

More than 60 scholarships are available for 2016 through AFA’s partnerships with organizations such as American Royal Association, Belles of the American Royal (BOTAR), California Cotton Alliance, Roderick J. and Jo Anne Cyr Foundation, DFA Cares Foundation, Farm Credit Mid-America, Stanley H. Durwood Foundation and AgriBank’s William J. Collins Scholarship.

Each scholarship has two components — leader and academic. The leader portion introduces recipients to AFA’s leader development program through a \$1,000 sponsorship to the AFA Leaders Conference, a development experience for elite agriculture students. The academic component provides financial support, typically \$1,600, for the recipient’s tuition and fees upon successful attendance of the conference.

Scholarship recipients from across the country are selected based on career vision and goal; leadership and community involvement; and financial need. Eligibility requirements vary, but all students must be pursuing four-year degrees in agriculture-related fields. Applications are due March 18, 2016. Learn more and apply at [www.agfuture.org/scholarships](http://www.agfuture.org/scholarships).

### **Georgia Junior Cattleman’s Association offers scholarship event**

The dates for the Georgia Junior Cattleman’s Association (GJCA) Beef Industry Scholarship Challenge have been set for April 8-9, 2016. Please encourage your students to consider the opportunities offered by this event. It will be hosted in Tifton, and it is open to all GJCA members, as well as juniors in surrounding states who will be in

high school or incoming college freshmen in the fall of 2016. This program is designed to offer scholarship funds to students, while at the same time providing opportunities to participate in hands-on, real-world scenarios beef producers deal with every day.

More than \$10,000 in scholarships will be available. Please contact Bailey Toates, director of communications and youth activities of the Georgia Cattleman’s Association, to discuss details. She can be reached at 478-474-6560 or [bailey@gabeef.org](mailto:bailey@gabeef.org). The completed entry form is due Feb. 15, 2016.

### **Missouri State Fair Foundation scholarships available**

The Missouri State Fair Foundation Youth in Agriculture scholarship application for Missouri high school seniors graduating in 2015 is now available online at Missouri State Fair. Applications should be submitted to the Missouri State Fair and must be postmarked by Feb. 1, 2016.

“These scholarships are possible thanks to the gracious contributions of many individuals and companies,” said Youth in Agriculture Committee Chairman Wayne Yokley. “One \$5,000 platinum scholarship sponsored by Youth in Agriculture supporters, one \$2,500 supreme scholarship sponsored by Sydenstricker John Deere of Missouri/Sydenstricker Angus Genetics, and thirty \$1,500 scholarships sponsored by Youth in Agriculture are being offered.”

Applicants must be high school seniors and active members of 4-H or FFA. Eligible scholarship applicants must plan to enroll in an accredited Missouri college or university, and pursue a degree in agriculture. Applicants must also have participated at least once as a 4-H or FFA exhibitor at the Missouri State Fair; however, applicants cannot have sold livestock in a past Missouri State Fair Sale of Champions auction.

Missouri State Fair scholarships are funded through the generosity of Youth in Agriculture sponsors and buyers of the livestock sold during the annual Sale of Champions; the sponsors and buyers list is available online. A portion of each animal’s sale price is allocated to the scholarship program. The Missouri State Fair Foundation also provides significant support of the scholarship program through fundraising efforts including the Governor’s Ham Breakfast.

For more information please call the Missouri State Fair at 1-800-422-3247 or email questions to [mostatefair@mda.mo.gov](mailto:mostatefair@mda.mo.gov).