



Next Generation

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

Foreign education

An education is an accomplishment that never can be taken away or destroyed. Naturally, if a young person dedicates himself or herself to learning and truly makes the most of this opportunity, it can be one of the most powerful tools they carry throughout life.

Augmenting formal education

Unfortunately, the notable accomplishment of a formal education on paper doesn't seem to hold the same value it did decades ago. Maybe we're just not getting the same "bang for the buck" as obtained with previous standards in education. Or, maybe our culture has waned in assessing the value of gaining information/education as an advantage.



Will Fiske

Nonetheless, with so many new approaches to obtaining an education

and a larger percentage of the American population seemingly having an average education, graduates seem to blend together instead of standing out.

Therefore, an addition to a quality formal education when combined with motivation and commitment can easily set individuals apart. Being involved in extracurricular activities has always looked good on paper and fostered interests for personal success. A diversified education has proven for many years to be very advantageous and rewarding to students.

One element to augment the education of youth is being able to travel. Traveling

not only within the United States, but internationally, allows you to gain a new respect for other cultures. As an accepted fact, we live in a world that is fairly accessible to all. From emerging markets to education and information, the scope and scale of opportunities is endless.

A 2011 study by the Berkshire Hathaway Co. stated that student educational travel enhanced a child's education, career growth and success. Thus, students are substantially more marketable to colleges

and employers, maintain a higher GPA than students who don't travel, graduate with a more usable education, and are 35% more successful after graduating college.

Moreover, the experience of traveling often results in establishing invaluable networks and connections. This provides an opportunity for innovation and to gain an appreciation for alternative views or to reinforce those already established. To do this, many choose high school foreign-exchange programs, studying abroad in college, international internships or traveling with an organization.

Augmenting the preparation of youth for the increasingly complex world they may experience after graduation sometimes demands this understanding of different people and cultures. Traveling provides much more than an "iPhone" by affording the opportunity to work in team structures to build interpersonal skills, advance critical-thinking and decision-making skills, and use verbal communication instead of virtual/nonpersonal communication. This would certainly be an advantage for students as our future industry leaders and policy makers.

Every passing day we are more connected with the world than we were the day before. The more connected, the more opportunities there are to share information and affect products and services within global markets and economies, as has been the case for centuries with international trading of

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agricultural products and commodities.

Moreover, policy and technological developments of the past few decades have accelerated this new ag globalization. It's common now for producers and processors to directly export products such as beef, livestock, cereal grains and feedstuffs to meet the demands of markets in other countries. In 2013 alone, live-cattle export numbers were near 200,000. According to predictions from the *Wall Street Journal*, T.K. Exports Inc., and the USDA, gross live-cattle export numbers will be slightly down in 2014 due to basic economics and the value of the American dollar. Farm Bureau states that more than 30% of the U.S. farm income comes directly from exports.

Agriculture continues as just one of many industries using connections and networking to create endless opportunities for future generations. With opportunities to travel, learn and enhance a basic education, younger generations — who are more familiar with modern technologies — could be well-positioned to stand out and lead us into the future.

Therefore, I challenge students who are eager to stand out among their peers, and those interested in a more diverse method of learning, to pursue opportunities to

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NJAA ON FACEBOOK:
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Visit the NJAA web site
at www.njaa.info.

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▶ Nebraska Jr. Winter Angus Show, Dec. 7, Kearney



▶ Showmanship was won by (from left) **Jennifer Keyes**, Springfield, senior champion; **Justine Nelson**, Lincoln, reserve senior champion; **Savannah Schafer**, Nehawka, intermediate champion; **Austin Vieselmeyer**, Amherst, Colo., reserve intermediate champion; **Kasey Meyer**, Blue Hill, junior champion; and **Mattison Beattie**, Sumner, reserve junior champion.

travel and further enrich their educational experience.

— **Will Fiske, Virginia**

NJAA Recognition Program

Faith Massingill, Hamilton, Texas, and **Rachel Reid**, Eaton Rapids, Mich., have earned the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Bronze award, reports Jaclyn Upperman, education and events director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Massingill, the 16-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.

Massingill has participated in local, state and national shows. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), she participated in the creative writing and photo contests.

She has submitted weight data to Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) and is actively involved with her local FFA and 4-H club.

Reid, the 20-year-old daughter of Chuck and Linda Reid, attends Michigan State University where she is studying nursing. She is a member of the NJAA and the Michigan Junior Angus Association, which she has served as director, awards chairman and royalty.

She has participated in local and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, she participated in the quiz bowl and the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off.

Reid has submitted weight data to AHIR.

The Bronze award is the first level of the National Junior Recognition Program that began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders must apply for the award, 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.

NCBA and PLC accepting summer internship applications

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) office and the Public Lands Council (PLC) government affairs office in Washington, D.C., are accepting applications for the summer 2015 public policy internship. The deadline to submit an application is Feb. 9, 2015.

"NCBA and PLC provide opportunities that very few other internships can offer," said John Weber, South Dakota State University animal science senior and spring 2014 intern. "They truly make you feel part of the team working on key policy issues that impact the beef industry. The internship gives you the opportunity to cover topics ranging from animal welfare to trade and allows you the chance to advocate on behalf of the industry on Capitol Hill."

NCBA Executive Director of Legislative Affairs Kristina Butts said this is a great opportunity for students with an interest in the beef industry and public policy.

"The internship gives college students the opportunity to work alongside staff on a range of issues that impact U.S. cattlemen and women," Butts said. "The internship is designed to work closely with the lobbying team on Capitol Hill; to assist with NCBA and PLC's regulatory efforts; and to work closely with the communications team."

The full-time internship will begin

May 18, 2015, and end Aug. 21, 2015. To apply, interested college juniors, seniors or graduate students should submit the application, college transcripts, two letters of recommendation and a résumé to internships@beef.org. More information about the NCBA public policy internship is available on <http://BeefUSA.org>.

Missouri State Fair Foundation Youth in Agriculture Scholarship application now available

The Missouri State Fair Foundation Youth in Agriculture scholarship application for current Missouri high school seniors is now available online at Missouri State Fair and Missouri State Fair Foundation. Applications should be submitted to the Missouri State Fair and must be postmarked by Feb. 2, 2015.

"The gracious contributions of many companies and individuals make these scholarships possible," said Youth in Agriculture Committee Chairman Wayne Yokley. "These agriculture supporters, who give back year after year, realize the importance of our youth to the future of the industry."

For the first time, one \$5,000 platinum scholarship will be offered by Youth and Agriculture supporters. Additional scholarships being offered will include one \$2,500 supreme scholarship sponsored by Sydenstricker John Deere of Missouri/Sydenstricker Angus Genetics, and thirty \$1,500 scholarships sponsored by the Missouri State Fair Foundation and Youth in Agriculture supporters.

"This year, a one-time donation of \$1,000 was included in the scholarship funds, thanks to the contribution of 2014 Missouri Woman in Agriculture Contest Rising Star Award Winner Ashlyn Richardson," Yokley said. "She chose the Youth in Agriculture Scholarship as the agriculture-related beneficiary of the \$1,000 donation she received from contest sponsor, Monsanto."

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 have participated as a 4-H or FFA exhibitor at the Missouri State Fair at least once; 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.

AFA partners to offer scholarships and training to agriculture students

Graduating high school seniors and current college students studying agriculture

should apply for a unique scholarship program offered by Agriculture Future of America (AFA) and its partners. The AFA Leader and Academic Scholarship Program provides students access to premier professional and personal development and financial assistance for college.

More than 60 scholarships are available for 2015 through AFA's partnerships with organizations like the 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, Water Street Solutions and AgriBank's William J. Collins Scholarship.

Each scholarship has two components.

The leader component 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 will be selected based on career vision and goal, leader 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 20, 2015. Learn more and apply at www.agfuture.org/scholarships.

