



Next Generation

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

Decisions, decisions, decisions

“In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing. The worst thing you can do is nothing.” — Theodore Roosevelt

Things to consider

Throughout our life, making decisions plays a crucial role in our daily activities. When we were small children, choosing what to do or where to go was mainly determined by our parents. However, as we grew up, we got to decide what we wanted to wear, who our friends were, and even what classes we would like to take.

For students, choosing between the multitude of available extracurricular activities can be daunting. For students growing up in the cattle industry, making priorities is a must. In high school, choosing between a track invitational and state livestock-judging contest can be a tough decision, especially when one is passionate about both contests. Ultimately, evaluating the future opportunities from these activities can assist in making these choices.

As an adult, making decisions can be even more difficult. When making decisions, some are made consciously and others automatically. Many simple choices could be determined by the flip of a coin, yet our complex decisions need more forward

thinking. Here are a few steps to help with any tough decision.

1. Identify your goal.

You don't want to make the wrong decision based on the wrong information. For instance, don't change your career path because you failed a class. There are many great professors who barely passed the courses they now teach.

2. Eliminate choices by setting standards.

I think this is a crucial step, especially for those of you starting to think about college choices. Don't pick a college based on the amazing basketball or football team they have or where your friends are planning to attend school. If your career path is animal science, then sports have nothing to do with the reasons you should pick a certain college. (Though if they do have great sports teams, it's always a plus!)

3. Don't worry about following the crowd.

Whether you want to believe it or not, you don't have to follow the crowd. If it makes you feel better as an individual, that's the better choice. It shouldn't matter what others think is the best choice.

4. Try not to rush.

The poorest choices are made when you're in a bad mood or stressed out. Make sure you don't have many distractions. Go take a quick walk, or just listen to some music.



Lindsay Upperman

The rewards from participating in the contests and conferences enable one to build character, leadership, friendships and sportsmanship.

5. Don't sweat the small stuff.

If the choice is easy, then let it be easy. Don't think too hard on things; overthinking can usually just make it worse.

In the end, decision-making is probably one of the most time-consuming events in our life. Yet, it doesn't have to be if we just follow our initial feelings and thoughts on the matter. One of the most important decisions in my life was joining the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and committing to the activities of the organization.

With this opportunity, having the support of your family is very important. Family vacations to the beach or other sunny destinations were replaced with cow shows across the nation. Summer jobs have to allow time to attend Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD), nationals and regional shows.

My hope is that youth in the cattle business and their families make the wise choice to be involved in the NJAA and take advantage of all the activities and opportunities. You will not find a more worthwhile youth program to impact your life. The rewards from participating in the contests and conferences enable one to build character, leadership, friendships and sportsmanship.

Without this association, I would never have gained those worthwhile relationships, the valuable knowledge, or visited the countless Angus operations nationwide. It may not have been an easy decision, but it certainly was the best one I ever made.

— Lindsay Upperman, Pennsylvania

Lily Gisclair earns Bronze Award

Lily Gisclair, Longville, La., has earned the NJAA Bronze award, according to Jaclyn

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

Upperman, junior activities director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo.

The 12-year-old daughter of Corey and Bridgett Gisclair is a member of the NJAA and the Louisiana Junior Angus Association, for which she has served as director.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Gisclair participated in the photography and public speaking contests. She also participated in the mentoring program in 2012.

Gisclair has consigned cattle at the Louisiana Angus Association Female Sale.

MCA hosts first FFA speaking contest

Ty Whittaker, Miller, Mo., a student from the Miller FFA program and NJAA member, was announced the winner of the 2013-2014 Missouri Cattle Speaking Contest at the 46th Missouri Cattle Industry Convention & Trade Show hosted by the Missouri Cattlemen's Association (MCA) at Tan-Tar-A Resort, Lake of the Ozarks.

Whittaker was one of six speakers to reach the state finals. Students qualified for the finals by winning their area, then district contests. Whittaker received a plaque and \$250. The sponsors of the contest were Kent and Linda Blades of Shelbina, Mo.; Duckworth Farms, Butler, Mo.; and Apex Financial of Columbia, Mo.

This was the first time MCA, Missouri's Cattlemen Foundation and the Missouri CattleWomen hosted a beef speaking contest for FFA students. MCA President Chuck Massengill said nearly 120 students competed throughout the state, making the contest the largest of all commodity group speaking contests. Whittaker said he is honored to have been chosen as the winner of the contest.

"Being a part of the largest industry in the state is something that I am proud of," said Whittaker. "The beef industry is very personal for me. That is why I am proud to represent Missouri FFA as the winner of the first fall FFA beef speech."

More than 500 cattlemen gathered at the Lake of the Ozarks for the 46th annual event.

Angus juniors achieve success at NWSS meat and livestock judging contests

The National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo., is a well-known attraction for breeders, showing enthusiasts and other livestock supporters. However, in addition to the many breed shows for

Certificates of Achievement

The American Angus Auxiliary has awarded the 2013 Certificates of Achievement to qualifying junior members for outstanding achievements.

The Certificate of Achievement is issued only for outstanding achievements at national, state and district (tri-county) levels. County-level achievements are not eligible. In a given year, a qualifying junior Angus member will receive one certificate, in recognition of their achievement record as reported during the year (from Oct. 1 of the previous year to Sept. 30 of the current year).

Achievements that qualify: champion or reserve champion bull, heifer, steer or cow-calf pair; division champion or reserve division champion bull, heifer, steer or cow-calf pair; awards in showmanship, judging, carcass classes, scholarship competitions, royalty competitions and all National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) recognized competitions, including those at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Gold, Silver and Bronze awards also qualify, as do leadership roles or positions that were held during that time.

▣ Florida

Destiny McCauley

▣ Illinois

Chayton Day
Sierra Day
Lindsey Decker
Matthew Decker

▣ Iowa

Lauren Barker
Cassidy Becker
Craig Becker
Abby Collison
Megan Collison
Franchesca DeVore
Bryanne Duckett
Taylor Duckett
Mallory
Espenschied
Katie Friederichs
James Garner
Cole Greiman
Grace Greiman
Haley Greiman
Katelyn Holmes
Connor Holvoet
Mason Holvoet

▣ Kansas

Alexandria
Cozzitorto
Cale Hinrichsen
Eva Hinrichsen

▣ Kentucky

Blake Boyd
Logan Boyd
Leslie Craig
Makayla Jeffries

▣ Louisiana

Lily Gisclair
Lee Hymel

▣ Michigan

Jaycie Brown
Kavina Johnson
Kollin Johnson
Dylan Kennedy
Katrena
Klopfenstein

Kendra Merriman Austin Pillars Sterling Reichenbach John Reid Katie Reid Rachel Reid Chelsea Ruggles Justin Ruggles

▣ Missouri

Brittany Eagleburger
Nathan Eagleburger
Christopher
Kahlenbeck

▣ Montana

Ashtyn Aumueller
Jonwyn Ayres
Kyle Bailey
Avery Bates
Trista Bates
Michaela Blevins
Abbi Boggess
Beau Bromenshenk
Cortney
Bromenshenk
Garrett
Bromenshenk
Tyler Brown
Wes Brown
Catherine Callantine
Krista Callantine
Sydney Cutler
Reagann Dengel
Jillian Frye
Kyle Frye
Ryan Green
Savannah Green
Reece Idland
Tanner Jensen
Abby Leachman
Wade Leachman
Bentley McCullough
Jonna McCullough
Ben McRae
John McRae
Kensey Mikkelsen
Kane Olson
Kyla Olson
Abigail Stevenson
Claire Stevenson

Craig Stevenson Faith Stevenson Leisa Stevenson Rachael Stevenson Brooke Vincent Kristen Vincent Jena Wagner Jordyn Wagner Kita Weingart Charsi Workman

▣ Nebraska

Michaela Clowser
Aliasha Dethlefs
Emily Dethlefs
Kacey Dethlefs
Caylie Egger
Lane Egger
Caitlin Havelka
Colton Hewgley
Jennifer Keyes
Michelle Keyes
Codie Kraus
Cheyann Lovett
Dakota Lovett
Kyra Meyer
Justine Nelson
Kami Nelson
Taylor Nichols
Mikeayla
Samuelson
Savannah Schafer
Reagan Skow
Rachel Smith
Austin Woltemath

▣ North Carolina

Brooke Harward
Catherine Harward
LeAnn Harward
Marcie Harward
Mattie Harward

▣ North Dakota

Kaitlin Geyer

▣ Ohio

Kinsey Crowe
Lydia Dance
Kacey Felumlee
Keri Felumlee
Samantha Wallace

▣ Oklahoma

Jackson Ray

▣ Pennsylvania

Alexis Cash
Cailey Dahlquist
Courtney Dahlquist
Laini Dean
Shelby Dean
Andrea Foore
Freddy Frey
Claudia Hissong
Kate Livingston
Kyle Livingston
Ruby Monn
Clay Myers
Kayce Myers
Daniel Rohrbaugh
Caleb Schmuck
Elizabeth
Trowbridge
Lindsay Upperman
Elizabeth Voight
Hunter Voight
Madison Weaver
Jacob Werner
Jade Zimmerman
Joe Zimmerman

▣ South Dakota

Chase Mogck
Christina Mogck
Ty Mogck
Alex Rogen
Madison Styles
Sawyer Styles

▣ Texas

Wade Wells

▣ Virginia

Mark Alexander
Morgan Alexander
Caleb Boden
Chet Boden
Cody Boden
Cade Clary
Destiny Clary
Drue Clary
Catie Hope

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various livestock species, the NWSS packed in yet another full schedule of judging contests from high school all the way to the collegiate level in both livestock and meat areas.

In the NWSS Intercollegiate Meat Judging Contest, Angus juniors **Kathryn Coon**, Bethel, Mo., and **Blake McDonald**, Sullivan, Mo., were on the seventh-place team, representing the University of Missouri. Coon earned second-high individual in specifications and 12th-high individual overall.

In the NWSS Livestock Judging Contest, Angus junior **Ashley Judge**, San Luis Obispo, Calif., earned second-high individual as part of the Oklahoma State University team.

United Producers Inc. (UPI) offers scholarships

UPI is offering two \$1,000 scholarships in each of its 16 districts to deserving high school and post high school students pursuing agriculture degrees.

“The future of agriculture depends on those who are currently considering and pursuing a career in this critical industry,” said Dennis Bolling, president and CEO, UPI. “We want to do all we can to encourage students who have an interest in agribusiness, farming, veterinary medicine or other agriculture-based industries to pursue their careers, and this is our way of helping them do so.”

Applicants must be a preferred member of UPI or a child or grandchild of a preferred member, and a 2014 graduating high school senior or a student currently attending a college or technical school studying an agriculture-related field. Completed applications and essays must be postmarked by April 1, 2014.

▶ Kansas Angus Ass’n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Jan. 25, Hutchinson



▶ **Esther McCabe** (right), Elk City, receives the Kenneth & Lorene Moore Scholarship from Rhonda McCurry, Kansas Angus Auxiliary scholarship committee.



▶ Kansas Angus royalty are (from left) **Johanna Lundgren**, Ottawa, 2013 Miss Kansas Angus; **Claire Wingert**, Ottawa, 2014 Kansas Angus Ambassador; **Megan Green**, Leavenworth, 2014 Miss Kansas Angus; and **Anna Carpenter**, Wamego, 2014 Kansas Angus Ambassador.

Visit www.uproducers.com for more information and to download an application form.

UPI serves more than 35,000 livestock producers in the midwestern United States, offering livestock marketing services to farmer members, along with risk-management and credit services. It is a farmer-owned cooperative headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy planned for June 11-14

The Kansas State University (K-State) Animal Sciences Leadership Academy is planned for June 11-14 on Kansas State University’s Manhattan campus.

The sixth annual academy will spotlight 20 high school students from across the state who wish to learn more about leadership and production in the animal science industry. During the first part of the event, students will receive interactive

leadership training and tour facilities in K-State’s Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

The second portion of the program will allow students the opportunity to tour businesses and organizations within Kansas’s diverse livestock industry.

Participants will stay in campus housing, chaperoned by the event coordinator and three K-State students.

Any high school student is eligible to apply. Selection will be based on educational, community and agricultural involvement. Applications are available on the K-State Youth Livestock Program website, www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu and are due via email to clowers@ksu.edu by March 15.

The academy is sponsored by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council, which provides all funding except a \$50 fee required of all selected participants.



▶ Georgia Angus Ass’n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Jan. 25, Athens



▶ Outgoing Georgia royalty were presented plaques. Pictured are (from left) **Logan Steed**, Carrollton, 2013 Miss Georgia Angus, and **Baylee Steed**, 2013 Georgia Angus princess, both of Carrollton.



▶ **Hannah Williams** (left), Milan, is Georgia Angus princess and **Haley Throne** (right), Lexington, is Miss Georgia Angus.



▶ **Logan Steed**, Carrollton, was named the Georgia Jr. Angus Ass’n Herdsman.



▶ **Haley Throne** (right), Lexington, receives her Bronze and Silver awards from Association Regional Manager David Gazda.