



Next Generation

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

Choosing your road

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

— Robert Frost

More or less traveled

I'm sure many of you have heard these lines, whether it was in your English class or maybe even from a family member. We've all had that moment. Dad or Mom sits us down, or a speaker at a conference tells us that we don't have to follow the crowd to be cool or successful.

Most of the time, the crowds or roads more traveled are negative situations that will affect us as we get older. For example, this can include situations like doing drugs, partying too much or even bullying others. In this case, taking the road less traveled will help keep us out of trouble and become the leaders we were meant to be.

Yet, what if the road more traveled isn't necessarily a bad situation? Should we always choose the road less traveled? I know there are plenty of times I chose to follow the crowd, whether it was for family, friends or even myself.

For starters, following your friends when you are younger is pretty easy. You want to be with them. The easiest way for me to do



Lindsay Upperman

this was to play sports with them. Well, many of you have not heard of me playing softball. Let's just say it was one sport at which I wasn't the best. However, for that time I loved it.

I got to see my friends at least twice a week. We laughed, chewed sunflower seeds and thought we were pretty awesome. Well, after a year or two, I realized I was much better at the running part of softball, rather than the catching and hitting, so soccer seemed to be the next best thing to do. Many of my friends followed me to this sport, as well. Through the years, I changed my sports, but for the most part, my friends were the ones I met pretty early, either on the soccer field or basketball court.

Furthermore, I have no doubt that if I didn't follow my family into the cattle business, I would never be where I am today. Now, I may not have had to do all that manual labor in the process, but was it really that bad? I never thought so. I was usually stronger than most of the guys (without lifting weights). More importantly though, for our family, it gave us a way to work together and spend time with each other, especially when we were pulled in many different directions throughout the busy week. For my family, showing cattle was a team effort; we all had a crucial part to play and were happy no matter which sibling

won that day. Following the family interests allowed me to find a lifelong direction for my life.

However, most importantly, without my father's love of the Angus breed, I never would have joined the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). Not only have I been able to experience the other parts of

the industry, but I've also met people who I will be working with in the future.

Some of my fondest memories are of our state breeders' show and state farm show. These memories, experiences and skills have tremendously helped me to realize what I hope to accomplish in the future. Of course, it is relatively easy to

follow your family, since most of the time these were the experiences you grew up with.

Finally, my decision to go to Kansas State University (K-State) was very simple, but not for the reasons many of you would think. Yes, many of my livestock judging teammates were headed there, including my coach, but for the most part this was a very small percent. Years before this, I met K-State students at the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Ga., and during a 4-H exchange to Kansas. They were great people, instant friends for life. For me, knowing all the people who have gone to K-State and what they have accomplished in their lives just makes me that much more thankful I'm a student there.

No, I'm not trying to influence anyone in their choice of an educational institution, this is just my experience. I may have followed the crowd, but, in this case, the crowd was filled with some amazing industry leaders to assist me in continuing my education.

As you can see, choosing the road more traveled is not always a bad decision. Don't get me wrong; I've made decisions to go down both more often than I can remember. In the end, my point is that the next time you come to a fork in the road, Robert Frost may not have the answer for you. Make the right decision, for the first step may be toward the road more traveled, and to me that has made all the difference!

— Lindsay Upperman, Pennsylvania

My point is that the next time you come to a fork in the road, Robert Frost may not have the answer for you.

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

▣ NEXT GENERATION

National Junior Angus Recognition Program

Taylor Duckett, New Liberty, Iowa; **Megan Green**, Leavenworth, Kan.; **Braden Henricks**, Anadarko, Okla.; **Brooke Langley**, Walton, Ind.; **Stephanie Lastovica**, Salado, Texas; **Andrew Livingston**, Nokomis, Ill.; **Cheyann Lovett**, Bladen, Neb.; **Isaac McFarland**, Keithville, La.; **Cara Smith**, Pleasant Garden, N.C.; **Thomas Smith**, Pleasant Garden, N.C.; and **Carly Watt**, Iva, S.C.; have earned NJAA Bronze and Silver awards, announced Jaclyn Upperman, education and events director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo. **Rachel Reid**, Eaton Rapids, Mich., has earned the NJAA Silver award.

Duckett, the 17-year-old daughter of Todd and Bonnie Duckett, attends Durant High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Iowa Junior Angus Association, which she has served as first vice president, historian and royalty, and Eastern Iowa Junior Angus Association, which she currently serves as vice president and has served as treasurer and director.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Duckett participated in photography, quiz bowl, poster, livestock judging, team fitting and team sales contests and the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off. She served as a voting delegate in 2013 and participated in the mentoring program in 2007. She also participated in the 2013 Raising the Bar conferences.

Duckett has consigned cattle at the Schroeder Fawcett Fall Spectacular and is actively involved with her local 4-H club.

Green, the 18-year-old daughter of Jerry and Tonya Theis and Gene Green, attends Pleasant Ridge High School and is a member of the NJAA, Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA) and Northeast Kansas Junior Angus Association. Megan currently serves as treasurer of the KJAA and has also served as reporter/historian, district director, royalty and ambassador. Green also serves as president of the Northeast Junior Angus Association in Kansas.

She has participated in regional and national shows. At the NJAS, Green participated in photography, quiz bowl and the Cook-Off. She also participated in the 2014 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference and the 2013 Raising the Bar conference.

Henricks, the 19-year-old son of Tim and Kari Henricks, attends Oklahoma State University where he is studying agribusiness

and is a member of the NJAA and the Oklahoma Junior Angus Association, which he has served as first vice president and second vice president.

He has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Henricks participated in the Cook-Off. He also served as a voting delegate in 2013 and participated in the mentoring program in 2014.

Henricks has submitted weight data to the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) and has consigned cattle to the Oklahoma Angus Gathering sale and the Denim and Diamonds sale.

Langley, the 18-year-old daughter of Craig Langley, attends Lewis Cass High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Indiana Junior Angus Association, which she

currently serves as membership chairman and has served as adult representative, secretary and royalty.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests, including the NJAS.

Langley has submitted weight data to AHIR and has consigned cattle to the Carter's Family Sale.

Lastovica, the 20-year-old daughter of Steven and Sandra Lastovica, attends Texas A&M University where she is studying agricultural leadership and development and is a member of the NJAA and the Texas Junior Angus Association, which she has served as reporter, director and royalty.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship

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NJAA welcomes extended intern, Jena Lee Wagner

Jena Lee Wagner of Billings, Mont., is well-versed in junior activities through the American Angus Association. She has been involved with the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) for more than 10 years and is bringing that experience back to the Association by serving as the extended intern in the Events & Education Department.

Wagner's role officially began at the 2015 National Western Stock Show (NWSS). She will continue to be involved in planning activities and events until mid-August. A former National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) member, Wagner says she looks forward to traveling and getting to know Angus members nationwide.

"It's such a tremendous opportunity to have an internship like this that involves traveling the country," Wagner says. "I would never get to see these places on my own, and what's even better is that I get to watch the NJAA members enjoy all these experiences, as well. Seeing them excited about Angus cattle and new friends is really the best part."

During her eight-month internship, Wagner will assist with planning Association-sponsored shows and conferences, attend several events throughout the country, and play a key role in preparations for the 2015 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla.

A top priority during her first weeks on the job is planning for upcoming Raising the Bar conferences at the University of Illinois and the University of Georgia. Visit www.njaa.info for complete details.

"Raising the Bar conferences give youth a rare opportunity to tour a college town, the campus and have one-on-one time with professors to find out what their programs are all about," Wagner says. "It's an experience a lot of people may not have when visiting universities."

Wagner attends Montana State University where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in communications, with a minor in graphic design and marketing. She has an interest in event planning and says she looks forward to learning more about the behind-the-scenes details that go into making the NJAA leadership experiences possible.

"Because of her understanding and enthusiasm for the National Junior Angus Association and its activities, we are fortunate to have Jena on board," says Jaclyn Upperman, director of events and education. "She has a keen eye for detail, and will help us continue to present industry-leading programs for our youth and adult members."

Together with her sister, Jordan, the Wagners operate JL Farms in Billings, Mont., where they manage a string of Angus show cattle. Prior to her internship with the Association, Jena has served as a sales representative for the Midland Bull Test Sale, has worked for the Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE), and interned with Genex Hawkeye West and the Montana Angus Association.

At Montana State University, Wagner is active in the Collegiate Stockgrowers Club, the Women's Cattle Club, Sigma Alpha and Young Farmers and Ranchers.

"I truly believe the American Angus Association and the National Junior Angus Association are giving youth members so many opportunities to be successful and develop leadership skills," Wagner says. "I am so pleased to be able to be a part of that."

contests. At the NJAS, Lastovica participated in creative writing, photography and quiz bowl contests and the Cook-Off. She also participated in the LEAD conference in 2008 and Raising the Bar in 2007.

Lastovica has consigned cattle to the Grand Slam Genetics sale, the Texas Angus Breeders Select Sale and the Lastovica/Dameron Angus Bull sale.

Livingston, the 19-year-old son of Dale Livingston, attends Lincoln Land Community College and is a member of the NJAA and the Illinois Junior Angus Association, which he has served as director.

He has participated in state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Livingston participated in quiz bowl, prepared public speaking, livestock judging, team sales and the Cook-Off. He served as a voting delegate in 2014 and has participated in LEAD conferences in 2013 and 2014 and Raising the Bar in 2014.

Lovett, the 21-year-old daughter of Jeff and Sandy Lovett, attends Southeast Community College where she studies agriculture business and management technology and is a member of the NJAA and the Nebraska Junior Angus Association,

which she has served as second vice president, director and royalty.

She has participated in local, state and national shows. At the NJAS, Lovett participated in the team sales contest and served as a voting delegate in 2013.

McFarland, the 17-year-old son of Mairus and Regina McFarland, attends Caddo Parish Magnet High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Louisiana Junior Angus Association, which he has served as vice president and director.

He has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, McFarland participated in extemporaneous public speaking, poster and photography contests, as well as the Cook-Off. He participated in the mentoring program in 2009, 2010 and 2013 and in LEAD in 2013.

Cara Smith, the 15-year-old daughter of Craig & Elaine Smith, attends Vandalia Christian School and is a member of the NJAA and the North Carolina Junior Angus Association, which she has served as secretary, central director and royalty.

She has participated in state, regional and national shows and showmanship

contests. At the NJAS, Cara participated in photography, graphic design, creative writing, team fitting, livestock judging and quiz bowl, as well as the Cook-Off. She served as a voting delegate in 2014.

Cara has submitted weight data to AHIR and has consigned cattle to the Southeast Bull Expo and Sale.

Thomas Smith, the 14-year-old son of Craig & Elaine Smith, attends Vandalia Christian School and is a member of the NJAA and the North Carolina Junior Angus Association, which he has served as reporter and central director.

He has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Thomas participated in photography, graphic design, creative writing, extemporaneous speaking, team fitting, livestock judging and quiz bowl, as well as the Cook-Off.

Thomas has also submitted weight data to the AHIR.

Watt, the 19-year-old daughter of Jody and Rebecca Watt, attends Clemson University, where she studies recreational therapy and is a member of the NJAA and the South Carolina Junior Angus Association,

which she has served as reporter, director and royalty.

She has participated in state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Watt participated in quiz bowl, team fitting and livestock judging. She served as a voting delegate in 2014. She has participated in LEAD conferences in 2012 and 2013.

Watt has consigned cattle at the South Carolina Angus Futurity.

Reid, the 20-year-old daughter of Chuck and Linda Reid, attends Michigan State University where she is studying nursing and 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 quiz bowl and the Cook-Off.

Rachel has submitted weight data to the AHIR.

Angus juniors compete at Missouri convention

The 47th Annual Missouri Cattle Industry

Georgia Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Jan. 24, Athens



► **Merritt Daniels** (left), Camilla, Miss Georgia Angus; and **Hannah Williams**, Milan, Georgia Angus princess, were crowned as Georgia Angus Royalty.

Convention and Trade Show Jan. 2-4 in Osage Beach, Mo., hosted several contests for juniors. Two Angus juniors were finalists in two of them.

Sydney Thummel, Sheridan, Mo., was a finalist in the cattle-industry speaking

contest. The contest, in its second year, is one of eight industry-hosted FFA speaking contests. The cattle-industry contest was the most heavily participated contest with 112 participants.

“This speaking contest is yet another way to empower the next generation of agriculturalists in Missouri,” said Lonny Duckworth, contest sponsor and a past Missouri Cattlemen’s Association president. “Every single one of these finalists will serve as outstanding advocates for Missouri agriculture.”

Twelve young ladies from across Missouri competed in the 2015 Missouri Beef Queen Contest, including junior **Jera Pipkin** of Republic, representing Greene County Cattlemen. She is the daughter of Jim and Joann Pipkin. Contestants presented speeches and interviewed with a panel of three judges. Judges scored the contestants on knowledge of beef, presentation, appearance, personality and their entry application.

In 1980, the first Beef Belle was crowned, and although the name of the title has changed to the Missouri Beef Queen, the

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tradition of having an ambassador for Missouri's beef industry at the many livestock shows, conferences, seminars and activities across the state remains the same.

Murray Wise Associates Foundation to offer scholarships

The Murray Wise Associates Foundation has announced the availability of merit-based scholarships for qualified ag students regardless of where they plan to study. Candidates must apply by March 31.

"A career in agriculture today and in the future requires a broad understanding of science, economics, business management and even world affairs. The issues and choices facing today's farmer are incredibly complex. At the same time, higher education costs have skyrocketed," said Murray Wise, chairman of the Murray Wise Associates Foundation.

"It has been our privilege to provide scholarships for over 15 years, and I want to emphasize that these are based entirely on merit, with no limits based on where the student lives or plans to study. As past recipients graduate, we are able to open the program up to new candidates," said Wise.

Eligible applicants include undergraduate students already enrolled in college, as well as high school seniors accepted for enrollment at an accredited college, university or community college in a course of study

related to agriculture. Awards are for a minimum of \$1,000 and may be renewed annually for up to four years, provided certain conditions are met.

Recipients are selected based on academic credentials, including class rank, grade point average and test scores, as well as their commitment to the past, present and future of the agricultural industry. "We're seeking to find the next generation's leaders, so it's important for applicants to demonstrate not only academic excellence but also leadership qualities, especially in agriculture and community extracurricular pursuits," Wise said.

Individuals may begin the application process at <http://app.MurrayWiseAssociates.com>. The secure online application allows students to complete a questionnaire and upload transcripts, letters of reference and other supporting documents before submitting a complete package for consideration. Students can save their progress and return to the application at any time prior to submitting to add additional information.

Murray Wise Associates LLC, with offices in Florida, Illinois and Iowa, is a leading national agricultural real-estate marketing and financial advisory firm.

K-State presents youth animal science learning opportunity

Students from across the country with

an interest in the livestock industry and related careers can apply now for the K-State Animal Sciences Leadership Academy. The academy is an intensive four-day educational experience designed to enhance the leadership skills and animal science knowledge of students in ninth through 12th grades.

Hosted by the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry and sponsored by the Livestock and Meat Industry Council, the academy's goal is to develop young leaders within the livestock industry and prepare them for a successful future in this field.

"I highly recommend this experience to anyone," said 2014 participant Brooke Jensen of Courtland, Kan. "It opened my eyes to different aspects of the industry and caused me to think a lot about what I could do with my future."

"We are pleased to announce that we will be expanding the program and offering two sessions in 2015," said Ken Odde, head of the K-State Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

Sessions will take place June 10-13 and June 17-20 in Manhattan. Students may apply for one or both dates as their schedule allows. Applications are due April 1 and can be found at www.YouthLivestock.KSU.edu.

The program's itinerary will feature interactive workshops, tours and faculty mentor time with animal science professors. Industry leaders will also join the participants frequently to share their knowledge and expertise. Throughout the week, participants will work in teams to evaluate current events within the animal science industry and educate others. This experience will culminate with team presentations and a closing reception on Saturday morning.

Only 20 students will be accepted for each session to ensure individualized attention from counselors, professors and industry leaders. Participants will stay on campus in university housing with program staff for the duration of the event. Transportation to and from the event is the responsibility of the participant, along with a \$50 deposit to reserve his or her space. The Livestock and Meat Industry Council generously provides all other sponsorships. Please contact academy director Sharon Breiner with questions at sbreiner@ksu.edu or 785-532-6533.

Application period opens for Lloyd Noble Scholars program

The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation is offering college students an opportunity to work side-by-side with the Noble Foundation's renowned ag experts.

The Lloyd Noble Scholars in Agriculture program is a summer internship that provides students the opportunity to enhance their in-class education with real-world application and experiences by working alongside the Noble Foundation ag consultants and researchers.

"This is not your everyday internship," said Becca McMillan, program coordinator. "Our goal is to educate and introduce these students to a broad spectrum of agricultural opportunities and provide them with the tools and resources necessary for success in the agricultural field they choose."

To be eligible, students must:

- ▶ Be an enrolled college student classified as a junior or higher;
- ▶ Have a declared major in ag economics, agronomy, animal sciences, ecology,

environmental sciences, farm and ranch management, horticulture, production economics, plant and soil sciences, range management, wildlife sciences, fisheries sciences, or similar ag-focused area;

- ▶ Be legally authorized to work for an employer in the United States and not require employment visa sponsorship for this internship; and
- ▶ Be capable of working 40 hours per week for the duration of the program.

The program typically begins in mid-May and lasts through August. The Lloyd Noble Scholars in Agriculture is a paid internship, and housing will be provided during the 10- to 12-week period.

Applications are available at www.noble.org/noble-scholar and must be completed by Feb. 13, 2015.

For more information about the program or application process, please contact Becca McMillan at 580-224-6403 or rlmcmillan@noble.org.