Promoting your brand on social media

When social media advertisement is free and effective, it's obvious why so many people are taking advantage of it. During the past few years, the agriculture industry has been taking this worldwide marketing scheme by storm. It seems every farm or ranch has a Facebook page, and every day you receive another notification inviting you to "like" a new page. Staying relevant and keeping up with the trends of this ever-changing technological world can be an ongoing challenge. With so many people trying to take advantage of this free marketing tool, how do you make yourself stand out?

Here are a few steps in making your social media page a success.

Have a plan

Create a social-media marketing plan and brainstorm about your goals: What are you

hoping to achieve through social media marketing? Who is your target audience? Where would your target audience hang out and how would they use social media? What message do you want to send to your



Tylee Jo Williams

audience with social media marketing?

Create your brand image

Deciding the exact details necessary on a page for your operation can be taxing. The idea of branding is to create positive recognition by association. Determine the portrayal you desire for your business. What services do you offer and what makes your business different? Create a unique theme throughout your pages to ensure brand recognition. Branding is a great way to form

trust, loyalty and differentiate your company from the competition. However, it is not an easy, one-time task. A successful brand is consistent and memorable, yet adaptable to the changing market and the needs of its customers.

Define your target audience

Your target audience is the group to whom you are aiming your advertising. Though social media can reach audiences all across the world, most businesses typically have a certain regional notoriety or clientele demographic that are interested in them. Figure our what sparks your customers' interest and post things they want to see. If nothing else, the main objective is to listen. Pay attention to the conversations your products evoke and respond with concise, genuine knowledge of the commodities you possess.

Establish and promote your expertise

People enjoy dealing consistently with people they know, like and trust. If two

companies offer the same product, the customers will generate loyalty favoring the better reputation. Keeping open dialogue is certain to produce open understanding. Transparent values and goals will attract inquisitive strangers, and there is no better way to make a sale than through an emotional connection. So, even if you can't communicate with customers face to face, you can still connect with them by portraying your farm or ranch in a positive image online. A story is much more interesting to follow than a marketing scheme. Let your customers know what makes you special and find a way to create bonds that surpass those of monetary value.

Get the conversation going

Once you have all these steps figured out, it's time to start talking. Post things that will spark your followers' interests. Frequently update your page and always follow up connections. Remember to stay concise and rational while still getting your point across. Keep jargon to a minimum and respect differing opinions for what they are. Still, listen to opinions for honesty. Staying relevant on social media is all about quality vs. quantity. A picture is worth a thousand words. Visual posts get more recognition in fast-paced advertising. People prefer to scroll through and look, rather than read. So draw them in with images. If they like what they see, they'll want to stay and learn more!

Don't give up!

A successful page doesn't happen overnight. Continually ask yourself how you can better communicate with your audience and accommodate their interests. Consistency is key and will keep your followers coming back for more.

What and how often should you post?

Facebook is a low-volume/high-value network. Followers typically get frustrated with too many posts. Focus on quality, high-impact, concise posts that are relevant to your audience.

- ►Minimum: 3 times per week
- ► Maximum: 10 times per week

Twitter is a high-volume/low-value network. You can share more here due to the fast pace of the conversation happening. You can also share (re-tweet) information

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Visit the NJAA web site at www.njaa.info.

North Carolina Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Jan. 17, Winston-Salem

▶ Right: Officers and directors for the North Carolina Jr. Angus Ass'n are (front row, from left) Ava Wood, sweetheart, and Mary Wood, eastern director and sweetheart, both of Willow Spring; (second row, from left) Mattie Harward, central director, and Marcie Harward, reporter and princess, both of Richfield; Lynae Bowman, Germanton, central director; (standing, back row, from left) Cara Smith, Pleasant Garden, president and queen; Jay Cassavaugh, treasurer, and Zachary Coffey, western director, both of Lenoir; and Justin Wood, Willow Spring, vice president.





► Thomas Smith (left) and Cara Smith (right), both of Pleasant Garden, receive Bronze and Silver awards from Chris Jeffcoat, American Angus Ass'n regional manager.

from other sources that is relevant to your audience. For this, you should focus on exciting and intriguing conversation starters.

►Minimum: 1 time per day

► Maximum: 30 times per day

Instagram is all about visual communication. Show your audience what your mission is rather than telling them. This is a very easy way to create an image for your brand. The more your customers see, the more they trust. Focus on positive and entertaining picture and caption post combinations.

►Minimum: 4 times per week

► Maximum: 10 times per week

— by Tylee Jo Williams, Texas

National Junior Recognition Program Awards

Mark Alexander, Berryville, Va.; Jasi Anna Borman, Holland, Minn.; Laramie Chaffin, Roodhouse, Ill.; Shelby Dean, New Castle, Pa.; Cooper Sadowsky, Eagleville, Mo.; Hunter Voight, Fredericksburg, Pa.; and Elizabeth Voight, Fredericksburg, Pa.; have earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards, according to Jaclyn Upperman, education and events director of the American Angus Association. Emily Stovall, Corsicana, Texas, earned her Silver award.

Alexander, the 18-year-old son of Chuck and Linda Alexander, attends Clarke County High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Virginia Junior Angus Association, which he has served as treasurer and director.

He has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Mark participated in photography, extemporaneous speaking, livestock judging, team fitting, prepared speaking and the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off, along with the 2007 and 2008 mentoring program. In 2012 Mark participated in the Raising the Bar and

Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences. He also participated in the Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC) and the Mini Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference in 2009-2012.

Mark has consigned cattle in the On-Stage Sale.

Borman, the 17-year-old daughter of Jason and Tammy Borman, attends RTR High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Minnesota Junior Angus Association, which she has served as secretary and royalty.

She has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Jasi Anna participated in livestock judging and career development contests. She is also actively involved with her local 4-H and FFA chapter.

Chaffin, the 18-year-old daughter of Annie Ruyle-Chaffin, attends North Greene High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Illinois Junior Angus Association, which she has served as scrapbook chairman, reporter, director and royalty.

She has participated in local, regional and national shows. At the NJAS, Laramie participated in creative writing, livestock

judging, team sales, quiz bowl and the All-American CAB Cook-Off. She also participated in the mentoring program in 2006-2008 and LEAD conferences in 2010 and 2011.

Laramie has consigned cattle at the Eastern Mo. Commission Co. Bull Sale and the Illinois Futurity Sale. She is actively involved with her local 4-H chapter and FFA.

Dean, the 18-year-old daughter of William and Faith Dean, attends Laurel Junior-Senior High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association, which she has served as vice president, news reporter and royalty.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Shelby participated in the All-American CAB Cook-Off. She also participated in the LEAD conferences in 2012 and 2014.

Shelby has submitted weight data to Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®) and consigned cattle at the Angus on Parade sale.

Sadowsky, the 18-year-old daughter of CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

Photography contest deadline May 15

Don't forget to submit your entries for the NJAA/*Angus Journal* Photography Contest before May 15!

Entries must be postmarked by May 15 to allow adequate time for judging and prepping the photos for display at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla., July 13-18. Late entries will not be accepted.

Photos will be evaluated on creativity (60%) and composition (40%). The "around the farm or ranch" category provides the opportunity to enter photographs that highlight activities and scenes around the farm or ranch, but that do not necessarily have Angus cattle in the photograph. The other three categories — Angus cattle, landscape and people — are intended for photos that focus on Angus cattle, Angus in the landscape, or Angus people.

Photos should be submitted as 8×10 -inch (in.) or 10×8 -in. prints mounted on 10×14 -in. or 14×10 -in. black foam core board. In addition to the mounted print, digital photo entries must be submitted electronically on CD or DVD, as well. Photos should not be framed. See additional rules in the February issue or online at www.angus.org/NJAA/Contests/Photography_rules.pdf.

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Jim and Teela Sadowsky, attends North Harrison R-3 High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Missouri Junior Angus Association, which she serves as second vice president.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Cooper participated in public speaking, photography, extemporaneous speaking, graphic design, team sales, quiz bowl, creative writing, career development and poster contests. She was a participant in the mentoring program in 2008, 2010 and 2011. She also participated in the LEAD conferences in 2012-2014 and the Raising the Bar conference in 2013.

Cooper has submitted weight data to AHIR and is actively involved with her local FFA and 4-H club.

Elizabeth Voight, the 14-year-old daughter of Delbert and Wilhelmina Voight, attends Northern Lebanon High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association, which she has served as secretary and royalty.

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

in livestock judging, creative writing, quiz bowl and the All-American CAB Cook-Off. She also participated in the 2014 LEAD conference.

Elizabeth has submitted weight data to AHIR and is actively involved with her local FFA and 4-H club.

Hunter Voight, the 17-year-old son of Delbert and Wilhelmina Voight, attends Northern Lebanon High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association, which he has served as director and assistant news reporter.

He has participated in state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests.

Hunter has submitted weight data to AHIR and is actively involved with his local FFA and 4-H club.

Stovall, the 18-year-old daughter of Lorie Stovall, attends Corsicana High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Texas Junior Angus Association, which she currently serves as officer/historian and has also served as director.

She has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Emily participated in the creative writing contest. She also participated

in the Raising the Bar conference and the LEAD conference in 2014.

Emily is also involved with her local 4-H chapter and FFA.

Mark calendars for summer events

Members of the NJAA should have their calendars marked for a summer of regional preview shows, the NJAS and the LEAD conference.

The NJAS, themed "Angus Leading the Way" will be July 13-18 in Tulsa, Okla. For a preview of the event, including a tentative schedule, see page 138 in this issue. For more information about the weeklong shows and contests, visit www.njas.info.

The 2015 LEAD Conference, themed "Success in Seattle," is set for Aug. 6-9 in Seattle, Wash. The National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) has planned leadership and personal skill-building activities for NJAA participants 14-21 years old.

Space is limited, so register early. Early registration, due June 15, is \$250 for junior members and \$300 for advisors/chaperones. After June 15, rates increase to \$275 for junior members. Visit www.angus.org/njaa to register.

lowa Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, Feb. 11, Des Moines



► Katelyn Holmes (right), Benton, receives the Junior Bull of the Year award from Dixie McCormick, Iowa Jr. Angus Ass'n advisor. HCC Scotty 19733 is a March 2013 son of TC Aberdeen 759.



► Katelyn Holmes (right), receives the Steer of the Year award from McCormick. HCC Houdini is an April 2013 son of TC Aberdeen 759.



▶ Jordan Johnson (left), Fort Dodge, receives the Junior Owned Heifer of the Year award from McCormick. PVF Empress 3140 is an April 2013 daughter of PVF Insight 0129.



► Cassidy Becker (left), Diagonal, receives the Bred-and-Owned Heifer of the Year award from McCormick. CB Peg 311 is a March 2013 daughter of EXAR Classen 1422B.



► Franchesca DeVore (left), Promise City, receives the Cow-Calf of the Year award from McCormick. Moffitt Empress M217 is a March 2012 daughter of EXAR Lutton 1831. A February 2014 son sired by SAV Bismarck 5682 completes the winning duo.



► Joseph Adams (left), Union Springs, receives his Bronze and Silver Awards from David Gazda (right), American Angus Ass'n regional manager.



■ MAJAC Regional Preview Show, March 14-15, Harrisonburg, Va.



►Logan Foore (center), Seven Valleys, Pa., receives his Bronze and Silver awards from Jaclyn Upperman (left), Association director of events and education, and Sarah Harris (right), Miss Virginia Angus.

Note these junior deadlines

►May 1:

- Gold Award applications
- Outstanding Leadership Award applications
- Ownership and entry for the Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show
- Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) and Angus Foundation scholarship applications
- Ownership and entry deadline for the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show
- Iunior Board nominations due

►May 15:

- Ownership and entry deadline for the
- Ownership and entry deadline for the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Junior Angus Show
- Entries for the NJAS writing, photography, creative writing and graphic design contests due
- Entry and recipe deadline for the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American CAB Cook-Off

►May 21-24:

 Atlantic National Junior Angus Show, Timonium, Md.

►May 25:

- NJAA Career Development Contest résumés and public speaking contest speech outlines due
- Online entry deadline for the NJAS

▶June 1:

Garrett Bromenshenk

Tyler Brown

- National Junior Angus Board applications
- State delegate names for NJAA election due CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

Certificates of Achievement

The American Angus Auxiliary has awarded the 2014 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 fiscal 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 competitions recognized by the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), including those at the National Junior Angus Show (NIAS). Gold, Silver and Bronze awards also qualify, as do leadership roles or positions that were held during that time.

Indiana Kade Patton Kallie Knott

Abby Badger Cassidy Becker Craig Becker Devin Becker Kassidy Bremer Matt Colbert Abby Collison Megan Collison **Lindsay Crock Dakota DeVore** Franchesca DeVore **Taylor Duckett** Mallory Espenscheid Gabe Fell **Katie Friederichs James Garner** Abigail Greiman **Haley Greiman Connor Holmes Connor Holvoet Chayse Jaspering** Jordan Johnson Olivia Johnson Mary Kate Mardesen Tim Mardesen Kale Kiesewetter Abby Klendworth **Baxter Knapp**

Lexi Knapp

Leo Kruse

Morgan Knapp

Raylee Kruse

Kelly Lacey Reed McCormick Morgan McDermott Kerrigan Mobley Lucas Moser **Drew Norris** Sarah Norris Nicholas Prevo

Ty Ruby **Jacob Schermer Ierad Shires** Gage Skarda Erin Steele Abe Troyer Maddy Udell **Courtney Younge**

Kansas

Alexandria Cozzitorto Cale Hinrichsen **Eva Hinrichsen Nicholas Siemens**

Louisiana

Lilv Gisclair **Cheyenne Jones** Kara LeBeouf Lani LeBeouf Olivia Shepherd **Payton Shepherd**

Missouri

Christopher Kahlenbeck Jera Pipkin

Michigan Claudia Albrecht Jaycie Brown Tori DeMeyer Keana Fahmi Kavina Johnson Kollin Johnson **Dylan Kennedy** Katrena Klopfenstein Amanda Kosal Kristopher Kosal Ionathan Lutchka Maire MacMaster Matthew MacMaster **Bethany Maurer** DeeAnne Merriman Kendra Merriman **Austin Pillars Blake Pillars** Sterling Reichenbach **John Reid** Katie Reid Maggie Reid Rachel Reid Steven Soule **Brady Zellmer** Paige Zellmer

Montana

Jace Aumueller Jonwyn Ayres Olivia Barragree Avery Bates Trista Bates Michaela Blevins Abbi Boggess Raquel Boyd Beau Bromenshenk **Cortney Bromenshenk** Wes Brown **Catherine Callantine Sydney Cutler** Reagann Dengel **Allison Dubs** Jillian Frye Kyle Frye Randall Frye Leighton Green Rilee Green Rvan Green Reece Idland **Tanner Jensen** Kensey Mikkelsen Claire Murnin Kane Olson Halie Sohr Abigail Stevenson **Claire Stevenson Craig Stevenson** Faith Stevenson Leisa Stevenson Nicole Stevenson Rachael Stevenson **Wayne Stevenson Brooke Vincent Kristen Vincent** Jena Wagner Jordyn Wagner Kita Weingart

Nebraska

Michaela Clowser Aliesha Dethlefs **Emily Dethlefs Kacey Dethlefs Colton Hewgley** Jennifer Keyes Michelle Keyes **Chevann Lovett Dakota Lovett Montana Lovett Kasey Meyer** Kyra Meyer Savannah Schafer Reagan Skow Rachel Smith Jace Stagemeyer Miles Stagemeyer

North Carolina

Brooke Harward Catherine Harward LeAnn Harward Marcie Harward **Mattie Harward** Cara Smith **Thomas Smith**

Ohio

Lydia Dance

Pennsvlvania

Alexis Cash Cailey Dahlquist Courtney Dahlquist Laini Dean **Shelby Dean Andrea Foore** Logan Foore **Claudia Hissong** Kyle Livingston **Matthew Mitchell** Clay Myers **Kayce Myers** Samuel Parr Daniel Rohrbaugh Elizabeth Trowbridge Elizabeth Voight F. Hayden Weaver Madison Weaver

South Dakota

Alex Rogen Madison Styles Sawyer Styles

Texas

Colter Pohlman **Cutter Pohlman** Hannah Steph Jeremiah Steph

Virginia

Mark Alexander Morgan Alexander Cade Clary **Destiny Clary Drue Clary** Catie Hope

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- State names for NJAS showmanship contest due
- NJAA Ambassador Program application due

▶June 10-14:

 All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity Regional Preview Junior Angus Show, Louisville, Ky.

▶June 15:

- LEAD early registrations due

▶June 17-20:

 Northwestern Regional Junior Angus Show, Filer, Idaho

▶June 19-21:

 Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, Lewisburg, W.Va. Visit www.angus.org/njaa for more information and deadlines. Please note there are no exceptions to any of the ownership and entry deadlines.

Juniors, submit entries online

You can save time by submitting entries for shows online. Simply log on to www.angus.org/njaa and provide the necessary information, including a Visa® or MasterCard® number to cover entry and bedding fees. Online entries are subject to the same entry deadlines as those submitted via mail. No late entries are accepted for any reason.

Association can help with junior transfers

If you have purchased or raised a heifer that you want to show, please make note of all ownership deadlines. If a deadline is fast approaching and you haven't received the transferred registration, the Association can help.

Contact the Association at least two weeks prior to the show ownership deadline. Every effort will be made to get the transfer processed in time. Remember, late transfers are never accepted, regardless of the reason.

Editor's Note: This column is compiled by Associate Editor Kasey Brown. To submit your "Next Generation" item, email kbrown@ angusjournal.com or call 816-383-5277.