



# Next Generation

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

## Opportunities and responsibility

*Apply for all of the scholarships, join the organization, get elected to serve the organization and attend the conferences. Juniors are always encouraged to achieve as much as possible and to constantly improve.*

### Use your journey to lead

One day not too long ago, I realized that the end of my junior career marked the end of so many of these opportunities. I became



Maggie Jasper

sad when I thought about not getting to go to any more state association meetings, Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences, or National Junior Angus Shows (NJAS). All of these aspects of

participating in the cattle industry would no longer be open for me to participate.

There was something about this that I was overlooking. The end of my junior career marked more than the end, it marked the beginning of something new, something different. I've attended the conferences, I've served in the leadership roles, and it is now time for something bigger than that. It hit me that this journey was not about me anymore. It is now my responsibility to help empower the next generation of young Angus leaders just the way that so many have done for me.

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the farm and in the showing. There are trials that lead to sadness and triumphs that lead to a fulfilled spirit. What young people are not learning from their own experiences, they learn from elders or peers. Other people serve as great role models for what is right and what is wrong.

This is why experiences offered by the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) are so important to the development of juniors. They offer moments of struggle that lead to success, or simple experiences that lead to better understanding. When a junior does not place in the speech contest at junior nationals, they come back next year more prepared than before. When a junior places last in a class, they learn to maintain their dignity. So, when that first-place or blue ribbon finally comes, they appreciate what it took to get there. Opportunities are available in order to mold our juniors into groundbreaking members of society that have the capability to achieve anything.

In some ways, the journey may be coming to a close, but new roles are just being shaped as members of the next generation come along eager to begin their own journey. When juniors move on to adult associations, they are not completely free from the responsibility of the association they left. They are actually expected to do more. There are few better prepared to help juniors than those who were juniors not too long ago. The experiences are fresh, and the ideas are abundant. They can move mountains because of the opportunities they have received.

Once the knowledge, experience and opportunities are seized, they can be used to give back. The organizations that provide these opportunities need strong leaders to mold the next group. Even though age may mean that you are no longer a member, it does not mean you can no longer be a leader. As the journey comes to an end, the new journey is just beginning. Use that journey to lead others to be all they can be.

— Maggie Jasper, Kentucky

### Nebraska State Fair launches new cattle show

The Nebraska State Fair will launch a new open junior breeding heifer show Wednesday, Aug. 27, at 4 p.m. in the Five Points Bank Arena. This show will be open to any junior exhibitor who is enrolled in 4-H or FFA or is a member of a junior breed association. Nebraska residency is not required. The entry fee is \$25 per head, and the entry deadline is Aug. 10 (see <http://statefair.org/fair/> for entry information).

Registration papers must be in the sole name of the exhibitor at least 30 days prior to the start of the fair. Original papers must be available for inspection at the show. Junior breeding heifers may also be exhibited in the open breeding cattle classes for an additional fee, as well as the open class jackpot feeder & breeding calf show. There is no limit to the number of animals an exhibitor may enter in this division. Substitutions within the same class and same owner only will be accepted until Aug. 15.

Premiums will be \$50 for first, \$40 for second and \$30 for third place. A breed champion will receive \$75, and a reserve breed champion will receive \$50. Following the individual breed shows, an overall

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

supreme champion junior breeding female will be selected, earning a premium of \$400. The reserve supreme champion will earn a premium of \$250.

### **Best of the Buckeye Program kicks off at Ohio Beef Expo**

The Ohio Cattlemen's Association (OCA) hosted the inaugural Best of the Buckeye show at the Ohio Beef Expo March 16 during the junior show. The Best of the Buckeye program, coordinated by OCA in conjunction with the Ohio Beef Expo and Ohio State Fair, had a strong first show, with more than 170 head of cattle nominated by youth and breeders to date.

The program recognizes top Ohio-bred, -born and -registered calves, along with the breeder and exhibitor, in each breed division at the two shows. Best of the Buckeye provides Ohio seedstock breeders with an enhanced marketing opportunity for Ohio-bred, -born and -registered steers and heifers, creates a source of more moderately priced show steers and heifers by providing a program with awards and prestige, and attracts new participants interested in showing at the Ohio Beef Expo and/or the Ohio State Fair.

This year's sponsors are Green Oak Farms, heifer division; Steve Rauch, steer division; and Franklin Equipment, scholarship division. \$45,000 was presented between the two shows in the form of premiums, scholarships and awards. Every winning Best of the Buckeye exhibitor received a basic premium of \$300 for champion, \$200 for reserve champion and \$100 for third overall. Ohio breed associations contributed additional premiums. Winners of the Ohio Beef Expo event were as follows:

Lauren Grimes, Hillsboro, exhibited the champion Angus heifer, which was bred by Elizabeth Pugh, Louisville. Their total premium was \$500. Reserve champion Angus heifer was won by Pugh as both exhibitor and breeder. Her total premium was \$325. Third-place Angus heifer was exhibited by Molly Brodman, Carey, and bred by John King, Tiffin. Their total premium was \$175.

The champion Angus steer was exhibited by Mackenzie Ulrich, Louisville, and bred by Pugh. Their premium was \$500. Reserve champion Angus steer was exhibited and bred by Caroline Winter, Ashville, who won \$325 in premium. The third-place Angus steer was exhibited by Christina Winter, Ashville, and bred by Jim and Sharon Winter, Ashville. Their total premium was \$175.

The Ohio Angus Association sponsored additional Angus premiums.

### **Juniors awarded Bronze and Silver awards**

Lindsey Decker, Philo, Ill.; Matthew Decker, Philo, Ill.; Chelsey Figge, Onaga, Kan.; Kylee Geppert, Mitchell, S.D.; Kale Kiesewetter, Letts, Iowa; Jessica Siedhoff, New Haven, Mo.; Hannah Steph, Tatum, Texas; and Jeremiah Steph, Tatum, Texas, have earned the Bronze and Silver awards through the American Angus Association's National Junior Recognition Program, according to Jaclyn Upperman, junior activities director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo.

**Lindsey Decker**, the 14-year-old daughter of Ed and Kim Decker, attends St. Thomas Catholic School and is a member of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and the Illinois Junior Angus Association, where she serves as director and royalty.

She has participated in local, state and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Lindsey participated in the photography, quiz bowl, team sales, livestock judging and creative writing contests, as well as the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*<sup>®</sup> Cook-Off. She also participated in the mentoring program in 2012.

Lindsey has submitted weight data to Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR<sup>®</sup>) and is actively involved in her local 4-H club.

**Matthew Decker**, the 12-year-old son of Ed and Kim Decker, attends St. Thomas Catholic School and is a member of the NJAA and the Illinois Junior Angus Association.

He has participated in local, state, and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Matthew participated in the photography, quiz bowl and team sales contests. He also participated in the mentoring program in 2012 and 2013.

Matthew has submitted weight data to AHIR and is actively involved in his local 4-H club.

**Figge**, the 18-year-old daughter of Beverly and Keith Figge, attends Onaga High School and is a member of the NJAA; the Kansas Junior Angus Association, where she has served as treasurer, historian and royalty; and the Northeast Kansas Junior Angus Association, where she has served as president, vice president and secretary.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Figge participated in the photography, quiz bowl, poster, graphic design and career development contests and the Cook-Off. She also participated in the mentoring program in 2010-2013 and the 2013 LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences.

Figge has submitted weight data to AHIR and has consigned cattle in the R&L Production Sale and the R&L Bull Sale. She is actively involved in her local 4-H and FFA chapter.

**Geppert**, the 18-year-old daughter of Kevin and Helen Geppert, is a member of the NJAA and the South Dakota Junior Angus Association, where she has served as director.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Geppert participated in the team fitting and judging contests and the Cook-Off. She also participated in the 2006-2008 mentoring programs.

Geppert has submitted weight data to AHIR.

**Kiesewetter**, the 17-year-old son of Bruce and Cara Kiesewetter, attends Louisa-Muscatine High School and is a member of the NJAA; the Iowa Junior Angus Association, where he has served as director; and the Eastern Iowa Junior Angus Association, where he currently serves as president and has served as secretary.

He has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Kiesewetter participated in the team sales, quiz bowl, team fitting and livestock judging contests. He has also participated in the 2010 and 2011 LEAD conferences and the 2010 and 2013 Raising the Bar conferences.

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

**Siedhoff**, the 16-year-old daughter of Alan and Sheryl Siedhoff, attends St. Francis Borgia Regional High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Missouri Junior Angus Association, where she has served as director and royalty.

Siedhoff has participated in local, state and national shows and has consigned cattle to the East Central Angus Spring and Fall sales.

**Hannah Steph**, the 16-year-old daughter of Chris and Melissa Steph, attends Beckville High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Texas Junior Angus Association, where she currently serves as reporter and has served as secretary and director.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Steph participated in quiz bowl and photography contests. She also participated in the 2014 LEAD and the Raising the Bar conferences.

Hannah is actively involved with her local FFA chapter and 4-H club, where she currently serves as president.

**Jeremiah Steph**, the 11-year-old son of Chris and Melissa Steph, attends Beckville Sunset Elementary School and is a member of the NJAA and the Texas Junior Angus Association, where he has served as director.

He has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Steph participated in the quiz bowl and poster contests.

Jeremiah is also actively involved with his local 4-H, which he serves as an officer.

