



Next Generation

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

One step forward and two steps back

John Michael Montgomery sang, "Life's a dance, you learn as you go." As an upcoming junior in college, I understand that more now than ever. You cannot always control the ways you go in life, but learning from experience is how you grow as a person.

Sometimes, those experiences are what we see as failures. In all reality, are they failures? Or are they stepping stones that are leading you to where you are truly meant to be?

In fact, life is a dance. We may not always know what we are going to do next because of the steps we take in each of our journeys. It is like a rhythm in dancing; one step forward, two steps back, then turn it around and go again.

One step forward

In our minds, we work hard enough at our goals that it should feel like we are taking leaps forward. However, in reality, sometimes we are only taking baby steps forward. This means we are moving toward bigger things in our life, and these are just minor stepping stones to what we are really meant to be doing. For example, winning the district FFA public speaking contest might be merely a baby step toward winning a national award. So, take each accomplishment in stride. Soak in the joy, but be prepared for the next step that it will lead you to.



Katlyn Tunstill

get the officer position you wanted, you will at some point endure failure. With that, you take a couple of steps back. At the time, this may feel unfair, and you may have thoughts of giving up. Still, it is good to take the opportunity to step back and get a broader perspective on your life. Now that one thing did not pan out, another, and possibly better, door may be opening right around the corner.

Turn

This does not mean turn around. Never turn your back on your goals and dreams. Failures do not make you a failure; they just change the way you had originally planned to go about your ambitions. We all plan on moving forward in a straight line throughout our lives. If there are no more open doors along that straight line, we have to turn and look around to see opportunity. It may include forcing us off the beaten path. It even may require us to completely turn around and go the opposite direction.

The more we begin to accept failure in our lives, the more we grow as people. Embracing

such events will bring newfound strength that will help you overcome the downfalls you encounter. Once you do, you will have reached a new level of understanding that some might even call wisdom. The ability to go from resisting failure to embracing it can happen. It may not happen overnight, but that is okay. The next time you are faced with an experience that causes your reality to change, take a deep breath and take a couple steps back. Then turn to the next open door suited for you.

Life is a dance. We do not always know the step we are going to take next. We see the situation from outside the box, not understanding why things happen. It is okay to be mad or frustrated. You are human, after all. Once the emotions have calmed down, though, just remember that we are all works in progress. God has a plan for everyone. It may take years to fully understand what that plan is, but I can promise he will not let you down.

Keep working toward your goals! You are all capable of achieving great things, not only in our industry, but also in this world.

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

— **Katlyn Tunstill, Arkansas**

Two steps back

There are times in our lives where we have great plans of achieving goals and dreams. There also are, and will be, many times where those plans do not work out. Whether you did not win the public speaking contest or

Missouri State Fair scholarships awarded to 4-H and FFA youth

Angus youth **Sydney Thummel**, Sheridan, Mo., was chosen to receive a \$1,500 scholarship sponsored by the Missouri State Fair Foundation and Youth in Agriculture (YIA) supporters.

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at www.njaa.info.

► **Western Regional Jr. Angus Show**, April 18, Reno, Nev.



► **Ashley Cox** (center) and **Madison Cox** (right), both of Eagle Point, Ore., receive their Bronze and Silver Awards from **Jake Troutt**, American Angus Ass'n regional manager.

► **Michigan Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 8, Jackson**



► **Left:** Receiving the Michigan Certificate of Achievement award are (seated, from left) **Paige Zellmer**, Nashville; **Kendra Merriman**, Lowell; **Amanda Kosal**, Deckerville; **Jaycie Brown**, Pinckney; **Maggie Reid**, Eaton Rapids; (standing, back row, from left) **Austin Pillars**; **Dylan Kennedy**, Nashville; **Blake Pillars**, Martin; and **Brady Zellmer**, Nashville.



► Presented by Ricka Boehmer (left), Miss Michigan Angus chairperson, Michigan Angus royalty are (from second left) **Maggie Reid**, Eaton Rapids, Miss Michigan Angus; and **Amanda Kosal**, Deckerville, Michigan Angus Ambassador.

► **Wisconsin Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, Feb. 21, Wisconsin Dells**



► The Wisconsin Jr. Angus Ass'n board of directors includes (seated, from left) **Hannah Tremaine**, Oconomowoc, historian/vice fundraising; **Suzanne Henning**, Janesville, show chairman; **Allison Hawthorne**, president, and **Claire Hawthorne**, vice president/treasurer, both of Westby; **Paige Gaffney**, Barneveld, secretary; (back row, from left) **Kori Beisbier**, Reedsburg, publicity; **John Henderson**, East Troy, membership; **Evan Henning**, Janesville, director; **Derek Horstmeyer**, Marshall, fundraising; and **Grace Link**, Deerfield, director.



► **Austin Pillars** (right), Martin, receives his Bronze Award from Casey Jentz, American Angus Ass'n regional manager.



► The Wisconsin Jr. Angus Ass'n (WJAA) presented **Allison Hawthorne**, Westby, with the Junior Member of the Year award.



► Mary Kohl (left), Wisconsin Angus Auxiliary past president, presented honors to Wisconsin ambassadors and scholarship winners (from second left) **Kori Beisbier**, Reedsburg, 2015 ambassador and third-place scholarship winner; and **Allison Hawthorne**, Westby, retiring ambassador and first-place scholarship winner. Also pictured presenting is Leslie Mindemann, Wisconsin Angus Auxiliary president. Not pictured is Alexis Trimmel, Johnson Creek, second-place scholarship winner.



► **Austin Pillars** (right) receives the 2015 Michigan Jr. Angus Ass'n Outstanding Senior Member award from Amanda Kosal.

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These students, selected from Missouri 4-H and FFA, are seeking higher education in agriculture-related fields, and received their scholarships April 17, during the annual State FFA Convention in Columbia.

The scholarships are funded by the Missouri State Fair Foundation and by YIA supporters at the 2014 Sale of Champions; a list of those supporters and auction results is available at www.mostatefair.com/competitions/youth-in-agriculture/.

Scholarship applicants were evaluated in

a variety of areas, including Missouri State Fair participation, grade point average, community involvement and leadership roles. Since 1992, the YIA committee has awarded 506 scholarships totaling \$453,000.

FCS Financial awards 35 scholarships

FCS Financial recently selected 35 recipients, including Angus junior **Jera Pipkin**, Republic, Mo., for their scholarship program. Each recipient will each receive a \$1,500 scholarship to assist with the cost of higher education. Since 2004, more than \$411,000 has been distributed through the FCS Financial Scholarship Program. The

program is designed to encourage and support higher education for relatives of FCS Financial members. Up to 35 scholarships are awarded each year.

Juniors receive National Junior Recognition Program awards

Morgan Fruge, Jennings, La., and **Jacob Hinshaw**, Secor, Ill., 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 in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Fruge, the 16-year-old daughter of Trina and Lawrence Fruge, attends Hathaway High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Louisiana Junior Angus Association, which 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), Fruge participated in team fitting and livestock judging contests. She was also a 2014 participant in the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference.

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

Hinshaw, the 18-year-old son of Dan and Judy Hinshaw, attends El Paso Gridley High School and is a member of the NJAA, Illinois Junior Angus Association and Central Illinois Angus Association.

He has participated in state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Hinshaw participated in the livestock judging contest. He was also a participant in the mentoring program in 2014.

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

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.

▶ Kentucky Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 6, Louisville



▶ **Corbin Cowles**, Rockfield, receives his Bronze and Silver awards.



▶ **Reese Johnson**, Slaughters, receives the Kentucky Jr. Premier Breeder award.

► **Kentucky Angus Ass'n Annual Meeting & Banquet, March 6, Louisville**



► Angus royalty are (from left) **Kelby Burks**, Park City, Kentucky Angus princess; and **Kaitlin Fouts**, London, Miss Kentucky Angus.



► Winning bred-and-owned (B&O) bull honors are (from left) **Reese Johnson**, first; **Makayla Jeffries**, Horse Cave, tied for second and fifth; and **Leslie Craig**, Harrodsburg, tied for second.



► **Tyler McGinnis** (left), Shelbyville, won reserve grand champion bull; and **Reese Johnson** won grand champion bull honors at the Kentucky Sweepstakes.



► Winning B&O female honors are (from left) **Caroline Cowles**, Rockfield, and **Kaitlin Fouts**, tied for second; and **Makayla Jeffries**, fourth.



► Winning owned female honors are (from left) **Caroline Cowles**, first; **Jesse Kostbade**, Henderson, second; and **Leslie Craig**, third.



► **Ben Conner** (right), Hodgenville, receives the Outstanding Junior Member award from Corbin Cowles, Kentucky Jr. Angus Ass'n vice president.



► Winning cow-calf awards are (from left) **Leslie Craig**, first; **Caroline Cowles**, second; **Kaitlin Fouts**, third; **Tyler McGinnis**, fourth; and **Makayla Jeffries**, fifth.



► **Makayla Jeffries** (left) receives the Herdsman of the Year award from Eddie Burks.



► **Leslie Craig** receives the Kentucky Jr. Premier Exhibitor award.

► The Kentucky Jr. Angus Ass'n board of directors includes (seated, front row, from left) **Caroline Cowles**, reporter; **Sheldon Burks**, Park City, second vice president; **Reese Johnson**, president; **Corbin Cowles**, vice president; **Josh Jasper**, Nicholasville, treasurer; (standing, back row, from left) **Kaitlin Fouts**; **Kelby Burks**; **Catherine Cowles**, Rockfield; **Leslie Craig**; and **Makayla Jeffries**.



► **Sheldon Burks** won reserve junior heifer champion and **Kelby Burks** won grand champion female at the Kentucky Sweepstakes.

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▶ State Fair of Louisiana Jr. Angus Show, Oct. 22, Shreveport



▶ Intermediate showmanship was won by (from left) **Destiny Jones**, Dubach, first; **Kara LeBeouf**, Deridder, second; **Kallan Conner**, Bell City, third; **Austin Freeman**, Dubach, fourth; and **Lena Johnson**, Choudrant, fifth.



▶ Senior showmanship was won by (from left) **Isaac McFarland**, Keithville, first; **Abigail Jenkins**, Bush, second; **Dylan Darbonne**, Opelousas, third; **Thomas Simmons**, Bossier City, fourth; and **Morgan Fruge**, Jennings, fifth.

▶ Presented by Matthew Madden (left), judge, junior showmanship was won by (second from left) **Lani LeBeouf**, Deridder, first; **Dalton Jones**, Dubach, second; **Mattie Johnson**, Choudrant, third; and **Jolie McCain**, Springhill, fourth. Also pictured is Olivia Shepherd, Louisiana Angus princess.



▶ **Destiny Jones** (center) won overall showmanship honors. Also pictured are Madden (left) and Shepherd (right).

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► Louisiana State University Stock Show Jr. Angus Show, Feb. 20, Gonzales



► Presented by Louisiana Angus princess Kara LeBeouf (left), senior showmanship was won by (continuing from left) **Faith Guice**, Downsville, first; **Morgan Fruge**, Jennings, second; **Thomas Simmons**, Bossier City, third; and **Jennifer Windham**, Addis, fourth.



► Intermediate showmanship was won by (from left) **Olivia Shepherd**, Lake Charles, first and overall showmanship winner; **Destiny Jones**, Dubach, second; **Kara LeBeouf**, DeRidder, third; **Lena Johnson**, Choudrant, fourth; and **Cort Decoteau**, Zachary, fifth. Also pictured is Fruge.



► Presented by LeBeouf (left), junior showmanship was won by (from second left) **Mattie Johnson**, Choudrant, first; **Emma Olsen**, Saint Francisville, second; **Dalton Jones**, Dubach, third; **Trey DelaHoussaye**, New Iberia, fourth; and **Ben Forbes**, Zachary, fifth. Also pictured is Fruge.



► Peewee showmanship was won by (from left) **Miranda Graves**, Amite; **Grant DelaHoussaye**, New Iberia; **Colton Sarradet**, Addis; **Landen Rome**, **Luke Becnel** and **Alyce Becnel**, all of Vacherie; and **Asher Shepherd**, Lake Charles. 