



Next Generation

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

Beef abroad

In May I traveled to Brazil with a faculty-led trip from Kansas State University. My trip to Brazil was an absolutely amazing experience. I am truly blessed to have had the opportunity to tour the country. On this trip I learned so much about myself, our country and, of course, Brazil. The tour was focused on the beef industry, which is what initially piqued my interest in the tour.

Learning opportunities

I traveled for about two weeks, and we saw many different parts of the country. Every single day I learned something new and exciting about the world, human beings and myself.



Michael Cropp

The first noticeable difference in the Brazilian beef industry compared to the United States was the size and scale of operations. The average farm and herd size is at least triple the size of those in the

United States. Their farms are all measured in hectares (1 hectare equals 2.5 acres). Most of the producers we visited had more than 10,000 hectares, with a few thousand head of cattle.

The primary breed of cattle found in Brazil is Nelore. Nelore cattle are white, narrow-framed, long-eared and heat-tolerant cattle. They look similar to a Brahman, with a large crest muscle.

Currently, Brazil does *not* have a system in place for quality grading or yield grading carcasses. Therefore, there is little incentive

to pay attention to carcass data when it comes to breeding decisions. Many of the producers we visited utilized timed artificial insemination (TAI) to crossbreed Nelore cattle with Angus sires.

The selection criteria being used to evaluate Angus sires was based on how they can increase the efficiency, growth and carcass weight for a terminal cross. Most Brazilian cattle producers are paid for fed cattle based on hot carcass weight. Additionally, most Nelore heifers aren't calving until they are 3 years old vs. 2 years old, as is more common in the United States.

To reduce labor and to decrease morbidity and mortality rates due to infection, producers do not castrate bulls prior to the feedlot. Because it is illegal to implant cattle and because producers are paid based on hot carcass weight, they want the added testosterone benefit.

In terms of management practices, the first noticeable difference was the lack of ear tags. Most operations only tattoo cattle. Some of the more progressive operations were implementing electronic identification tags (eID), but that was not common. All the producers did have some type of vaccination protocol. The types of vaccines given always

included foot-and-mouth disease (FMD). Other vaccines administered were similar to what many U.S. producers use.

In the feedlot we visited, I noticed there was no shade. However, they implemented a sprinkler system, which I thought was a great idea if producers had access to adequate water. Most Nelore only average 51%-55% dressing percentage, which is significantly different from U.S. fed cattle, which average about 63%. The Nelore cattle take significantly longer to reach harvest weight, mainly because they are often fed in semi-confinement or are completely grass-fed. However, there is some incentive for cattle producers to finish cattle on concentrates, because there is a discount for animals with yellow fat.

We toured a packing plant, and I was shocked to realize that they deboned all of the carcasses. The reason is many of the carcasses are C maturity (older than 42 months) or older. Therefore, there is a risk for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). The most expensive cut of beef is not from the loin, but it is the rump cap, called the *picanha*. It is a triangular-shaped muscle that is salted, roasted and sliced thinly. It is very salty and similar to a smoked ham.

Brazil's infrastructure is undeveloped compared to what is customary in the United States. As a whole, the roadways are extremely poor-quality. Many of the roads are so poor that we would be traveling at walking speeds because there were too many potholes that were often half a foot deep. Many of the roads are unlevelled dirt roads that are more like tractor paths in an average pasture than an actual road. Private individuals often would spend their money to improve the roads they lived on. Therefore, many back roads are of significantly higher quality than many main roads.

My experience in Brazil was better than I ever could have imagined! One thing they do better than the United States is they implement more crop rotation. For example, it was common for operations to plant fields into pasture for a few years, then plant crops for a year or two. This decreases many soil fertility problems.

The scenery is simply breathtaking. I had the chance to see via helicopter the Iguazu Falls, which is the seventh new Natural Wonder of the World. I saw many types of

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

During the National Junior Angus Show July 9-12 in Tulsa, Okla., delegates to the National Junior Angus Association Annual Meeting were to elect six junior members to each serve a two-year term as director on the National Junior Angus Board. To see who was elected, refer to the News page at www.angus.org.

wildlife that are not common in the United States, except for maybe in zoos.

I highly recommend international travel, especially if there is an opportunity to travel with an agricultural tour group. It will change your perspective on how you look at agriculture in the United States. I am forever grateful to have had the chance to go to Brazil. It offered me some life-changing experiences and memories that I will have the rest of my life. I highly recommend traveling abroad to every junior member. You won't regret it.

— **Michael Cropp, Maryland**

National Junior Angus Recognition Program

Brandon Hamilton, Buena Vista, Va., and Emma Nowotny, New Braunfels, Texas, have earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards, according to Jaelyn Upperman, education and events director of the American Angus Association.

Hamilton, the 18-year-old son of Lee and Patty Hamilton, attends Parry McCluer High School and is a member of the NJAA and the Virginia Junior Angus Association, which he served as director and historian.

He has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Brandon participated in the quiz bowl, livestock judging and photography contests. He also participated in the Mini Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conferences in 2008 and 2010-2013.

Nowotny, the 13-year-old daughter of Darryl and Meredith Nowotny, attends Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School and is a member of the NJAA and the Texas

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

Atlantic National Regional Preview Jr. Angus Show, May 22-23, Timonium, Md.

► **Right: Carly Watt**, Iva, S.C., and **Mark Alexander**, Berryville, Va., both received Bronze and Silver awards. **Robert Nixon III**, Rapidan, Va., received a Silver award. Pictured are (from left) Jacob Heimsoth, National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) director; Lindsay Upperman, NJAB membership director; Watt; Alexander; Nixon; Tylee Jo Williams, NJAB communications director; and Jessica Radcliffe, NJAB leadership director.



Nebraska Angus Ass'n Annual Banquet, May 31, Broken Bow



► **Left: Savannah Schafer** (left), Nehawka, was crowned Miss Nebraska Angus. Also pictured is Michelle Keyes, Springfield, 2014 Miss Nebraska Angus.

► **Right: Cheyann Lovett** (right), Bladen, receives her Bronze and Silver awards from Ashley Mitchell.



► **Left: Elected to serve on the Nebraska Jr. Angus Ass'n board are** (seated, from left) **Montana Lovett**, Blue Hill, second vice president; **Savannah Schafer**, president; **Justine Nelson**, Lincoln, vice president; **Michelle Keyes**, Springfield, secretary-treasurer; (standing, from left) directors **Reagan Skow**, Palisade; **Dakota Lovett**, Bladen; **Miles Stagemeyer**, Page; and **Caitlin Havelka-Nelson**, Anselmo.

California Jr. Angus Ass'n Field Day & Preview Show, May 23-24, Turlock

► **Right: Showmanship honors were won by** (from left) **Colby Perry**, Prather; **Brittany Hefner**, Springville; and **Dawson Dal Porto**, Brentwood. Presenting is Brett Barber, judge.



► **Tyler Tasker** (right), Martinez, receives his Bronze award from Terry Cotton, American Angus Association regional manager.

Not pictured:

► Juniors elected to the California Jr. Angus Ass'n board are **Steven Pozzi**, Petaluma, president; **Dawson Dal Porto**, Brentwood, vice president; **Colby Perry**, Prather, secretary; **Emily Piland**, Rescue, treasurer; **Hailey Traynham**, Maxwell, historian; **Rex Roseman**, Rocklin, historian; **Matthew Fenn**, Waterford, reporter; and **Tori DeMeyer**, Modesto, reporter.

► California Angus Royalty are **Regina Pozzi**, Petaluma, queen; **Kathryn Coleman**, Modesto, senior princess; and **Kaitlin Dores**, Gustine, junior princess.

► Voting delegates to the NJAA Annual Meeting at NJAS are **Emily Piland** and **Shayne Myers**, Colusa. Alternates are **Dawson Dal Porto** and **Tyler Coleman**, Modesto.

► Representing California in the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest is **Scott Avila**, Merced.

► The 2015 NJAB candidate is **Macy Perry**, Prather.

▶ NEXT GENERATION

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

Junior Angus Association, which she served as director.

She has participated in local, state, regional and national shows and showmanship contests. At the NJAS, Emma participated in quiz bowl, livestock judging and fitting contests. She also participated in the mentoring program in 2013 and 2014.

Apply now for the 2015-2016 ASA DuPont Young Leader Program

The American Soybean Association (ASA) and DuPont are seeking applicants for the 2016 ASA DuPont Young Leader Program. For more than 30 years, the program has identified and developed grower leaders who continue to shape the future of agriculture.

“The program provides industry-leading

training that helps unleash participants’ leadership potential while fostering collaboration among farmers throughout the U.S. and Canada,” said ASA President Wade Cowan, from Texas. “Grower participants gain experience and build lifelong friendships. From the time the program began in 1984, it has recognized the important roles that women and young farmers play in agriculture, and we are proud of the strength of that heritage.”

The ASA DuPont Young Leader program is a challenging and educational two-part training program. Phase I of the training takes place at the DuPont Pioneer headquarters in Johnston, Iowa, Dec. 1-4, 2015. The program continues March 1-4, 2016, in New Orleans, La., with training in conjunction with the 21st annual

Commodity Classic Convention and Trade Show.

Grower couples and individuals are encouraged to apply for the program, which focuses on leadership and communication, agricultural information and the development of a strong peer network. ASA, its 26 state affiliates and DuPont will work together to identify the top producers to represent their state as part of this program.

Applications are being accepted online now. For additional program information, visit <https://soygrowers.com/learn/young-leader-program/>.

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.

▶ Southwestern Wisconsin Angus Classic Show, May 24, Lancaster



▶ Winning peewee showmanship are (from left) **Kaycee Lindner**, Platteville, first; **Clara Henderson**, East Troy, second; and **Piper Key**, Bagley, third.



▶ Winning junior showmanship are (from left) **Hailey Jentz**, Fennimore, first; **Kelly Gaffney**, Barneveld, second; and **Cheyenne Handsaker**, Pearl City, Ill., third.



▶ Winning intermediate showmanship are (from left) **Paige Gaffney**, Barneveld, first; **Garrett Handsaker**, Pearl City, Ill., second; and **Samuel Henderson**, East Troy, third.



▶ Winning senior showmanship are (from left) **Evan Henning**, Janesville, first; **Benjamin Marsh**, Union, Ill., second; and **Samantha Barnes**, Darlington, third.

▶ Nebraska Jr. Angus Preview Show, May 31, Broken Bow



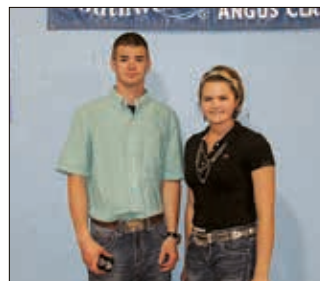
▶ **Savannah Schafer**, Nehawka, is Premier Exhibitor.



▶ Winning junior showmanship are (from left) **Kasey Meyer**, Blue Hill, champion; and **Tucker Stagemeyer**, Page, reserve champion.



▶ Winning intermediate showmanship are (from left) **Miles Stagemeyer**, Page, champion; and **Reagan Skow**, Palisade, reserve champion.



▶ **Evan Henning** (left) and **Suzanne Henning** (right), both of Janesville, receive their Bronze and Silver awards.



▶ Left: Winning senior showmanship are **Justine Nelson** (left), Lincoln, champion; and **Savannah Schafer** (right), Nehawka.

▶ Right: Chosen to represent Nebraska at the National Junior Angus Showmanship Contest are (from left) **Austin Woltemath**, Lincoln, delegate; **Michelle Keyes**, Springfield, delegate; **Taylor Lienemann**, Princeton, alternate; and **Cheyann Lovett**, Bladen, alternate.



▶ North Dakota Jr. Angus Ass'n Field Day, May 30, Jamestown



▶ **Molly Hansen** (right), Carrington, receives peewee showmanship honors from Cole Rupprecht, judge.



▶ Rupprecht presents junior showmanship honors to **Rose Wendel** (left) and **Brett Wendel** (right), both of LaMoure.



▶ Rupprecht presents intermediate showmanship honors to **Sara Hatlewick** (left), Jamestown, and **Madison Sundsbak** (right), Des Lacs.



▶ From left, Rupprecht presents senior showmanship honors to **Audra Montgomery**, Carrington, and **Caleb Mehlhoff**, Arena.

