



Next Generation

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

Life lessons from a show heifer

Relationships can be tricky, even when it comes to cattle. For the most part, mistakes teach more than successes ever seem to. I was an experienced showman who made a mistake.

Relationships matter

One year I had some show calves that I had been working with — rinsing, brushing, feeding, tying up and all-around taking care of them. Things were off to a great start. Approximately eight months went by, and I



Michael Cropp

purchased an additional heifer. She had a sweet disposition and an eye-catching pizzazz. The owners from whom I had purchased her brought her to a show, trained and ready to go in the ring; she did great. I brought her home for the first time after the show. I was so pleased to have her and thought to myself as I drove home from the show, “Wow, she’s going to fit in perfectly with my other calves.”

At the time, it was summertime in Maryland, and part of my morning show-cattle routine was focused on hair growth. I would bring them up to the barn, feed them, rinse them with ice water, brush them dry and they would stay tied up under fans in my cool, dark bank barn. It truly worked well

in terms of facilitating adequate hair growth to meet my wants. Maryland summers can be hot with high humidity. Making hair grow on black Angus cattle is tremendously difficult.

When I introduced my newest heifer calf to the mix, she settled right in with the group after only a little bit of roughhousing to determine dominance. The very next day I brought her up with the others, fed them, and treated her just as I was treating my other show animals — ice-water rinsing, brushing dry in the stalls under fans, the works. The first couple of days with my new heifer went by without any issues, and then all of a sudden things went south. She started acting more difficult when being handled. She would toss her head, go side to side when rinsing and stopped being easy to get into the barn.

For the longest time I could not understand why things had changed. Eventually, I realized my mistake. I had never cultivated a positive relationship with this new heifer. Leaving the relationship step out cost me dearly.

My other show cattle had been worked with and cared for all through the fall/winter months, and then slowly, as things warmed up, I began adding the cool dark barn with fans, rinsing first with just regular well water.

Building relationships is the first critical step, then add in the work and it will usually work more smoothly, and without as much difficulty or hard feelings.

As it became warmer, I moved to ice water along with brushing.

In contrast, my new heifer had been stressed out at a show, then brought home to a brand new environment where she was most likely scared and confused about why her old routine had changed so drastically. Basically, I brought her home and pretended she was just like my other animals, and she

► Missouri State Fair 4-H Angus Show, Aug. 7, Sedalia



► Winning showmanship honors are (from left) Ciara Raithel, Mexico, reserve champion; and Alexis Koelling, Martinsburg, champion.

► Northwest Regional Preview Jr. Angus Show, June 16-18, Moses Lake, Wash.



► Cassandra Garcia (right), Renton, Wash., receives her Bronze and Silver awards from Jake Troutt, American Angus Association regional manager.



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at www.njaa.info.

► **Montana Jr. Beef Expo Angus Show, June 20-21, Lewistown**



► Montana Angus royalty are (from left) **Jonwyn Ayres**, princess; **Reagann Dengel**, Lewistown, queen; and **Jillian Frye**, Three Forks, princess.



► Winning top showmanship honors are (from left) **Jonwyn Ayres**, Stevensville, reserve junior champion; **Kristen Vincent**, Moccasin, junior champion; **Nicole Stevenson**, Joliet, intermediate champion; **C.J. Stevenson**, Hobson, reserve intermediate champion; **Brooke Vincent**, Moccasin, reserve senior champion; and **Jena Wagner**, Billings, senior champion.

soon resented me for it. Still to this day, as an adult cow, she is extremely wary when I am around her. Other people can work with her without any problems, but I have to be cautious. As a result of throwing her into the mix without any time to acclimate, my new show heifer that I had such high hopes for did not want anything to do with me.

This experience taught me about how building relationships is the first critical step, then add in the work and it will usually work more smoothly, and without as much difficulty or hard feelings. It is hard to simply throw an animal into a new routine without taking that first step in building a relationship.

People are the same way. It would be wrong to meet a new person and the next day start asking for favors and help. The person would not want to be friends if they only felt used. Taking the time to build relationships with other people is often a key reason why they would want to be friends. Friends ask friends for help all the time, but before that happens, the initial step of building a relationship has to occur. In all aspects of my life: from cattle to school to youth organizations to my friends and family, I have found that relationships take work. The first step is cultivating the initial relationship. Then build on it with time and shared experiences.

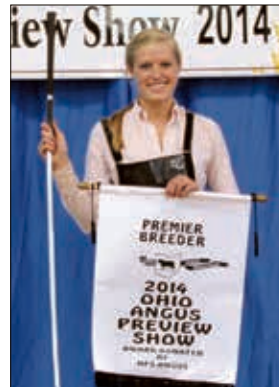
Throughout my life I have learned many lessons from my cattle and have found that my success, and perhaps all of our successes, comes from having honest, caring relationships with each other. Being able to hold my head up high after a long day's work is important. Maintaining my integrity and treating others right really matters, regardless of whether it is a person or an animal.

“Plus ça change, plus c'est la même chose” translated from French to English means “The more it changes, the more it's the same

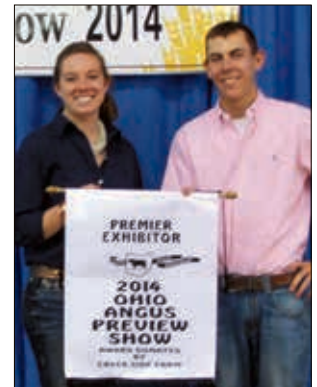
► **Ohio Angus Preview Angus Show, June 22, Lima**



► Herdsman of the Year is **Lydia Dance**, Hillsboro.



► Premier Breeder is **Lauren Grimes**, Hillsboro.



► Premier Exhibitor is **Will Harsh**, Radnor.

► **Indiana State Fair Angus Show, Aug. 7, Indianapolis**



► Pictured are (from left) **Audrey Korniak**; **Kent Korniak**, holding **Gus Korniak**; **Kelli and Steve Patton**; **Karson Patton**; **Kade Patton**, Premier Exhibitor recipient; **Beth Korniak** holding **Hadley Korniak**; and **Randee and Jim Patton**.

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thing.” The traits of honesty, integrity and caring relationships are timeless, whether it is an animal or a human being.

— **Michael Cropp, Maryland**

Emily Stovall earns Junior Bronze Award

Emily Stovall, Corsicana, Texas, has earned the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Bronze Award, according to Jaclyn Upperman, events and education director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo.

The 17-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 serves as director.

She has participated in local and state shows and showmanship contests. She was also a participant in the 2014 Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference and the 2014 Raising the Bar conference.

Emily is actively involved with her local FFA and 4-H club, through which she has received several awards.

The Bronze Award is the first of two levels of the National Junior Recognition Program (NJRP) that began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders must apply for the award, then meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving the honors. Applicants are evaluated in areas of junior Angus association activities and leadership, participation in showmanship, contests and shows, using performance testing to improve their herd, and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

Angus Best of the Buckeye exhibitors and breeders recognized at the Ohio State Fair

The Ohio Cattlemen’s Association (OCA)

Atlantic National royalty reception

The Atlantic National Royalty Reception was hosted May 23 in conjunction with the Atlantic National Roll of Victory (ROV) Show at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Md. The event was sponsored by Bloom Angus Farm, Westville, Ind., Don and Carol Bloom; and Hofing Performance Livestock Farm, Coatesville, Ind., Josh and Deanna Hofing and family. It was hosted by the Virginia Junior Angus Association to honor young women who represent their state associations throughout the year at Angus and other cattle-related events.



▶ State royalty attendees are (front row, from left) **Mikayla St. Clair**, Berryville, Va.; **Jade Zimmerman**, Reinholds, Pa.; **Catherine Harward**, Miss American Angus, Richfield, N.C.; **Claudia Hissong**, Greencastle, Pa.; **Avery Dull**, Westminster, Md.; (back row, from left) **Jayne Bannister**, Kent, N.Y.; **Elizabeth Voight**, Fredericksburg, Pa.; **Alexis Cash**, York, Pa.; **LeAnn Harward**, Richfield, N.C.; **Kelsey Davis**, London, Ohio; **Jessie Clark**, Culpepper, Va.; and **Keegan Cassady**, Normal, Ill.

hosted the inaugural Best of the Buckeye shows at the Ohio State Fair July 23-Aug. 3, 2014. The Best of the Buckeye program, coordinated by OCA in conjunction with the Ohio Beef Expo and Ohio State Fair, had a strong 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 generous sponsors are Green Oak Farms, heifer division; Steve Rauch, steer division; and Franklin Equipment, scholarship division. Between the two shows, \$45,000 will be presented 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. OCA would like to thank these sponsors for contributing to a successful first year of the Best of the Buckeye program.

The champion Angus heifer, reserve champion Angus heifer and third overall Angus heifer exhibitor and breeder was Lydia Dance, Hillsboro, earning a total premium of \$1,000.

The champion Angus steer was exhibited and bred by Caroline Winter, Ashville, earning a premium of \$500. The reserve

▶ Ozark Empire Fair Jr. Angus Show, July 25, Springfield, Mo.



▶ **Callie Keaton**, Anderson, Mo., won junior champion showman.



▶ Senior champion showman is **Chance Hardy**, Diamond, Mo.

▶ Virginia Angus Breeders’ Show, July 26, Chatham



▶ Premier Exhibitor is **Jacob McCall**, Greenville.

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champion Angus steer, with a total premium of \$325, was exhibited by Christina Winter, Ashville, and bred by Jim and Sharon Winter, Ashville.

Additional Angus premiums were sponsored by the Ohio Angus Association.

Andis supports youth livestock show with more than \$50,000 in grooming tools

Andis Co., a leading manufacturer of grooming tools for professionals and at-home consumers, supported youth competitors from organizations such as 4-H and FFA, as they vied for titles at the recent Wisconsin State Fair.

Andis donated more than \$50,000 in professional animal clippers as prizes for youth competing in horse, beef, dairy, sheep, swine and goat categories. In addition, Andis distributors were on site to help youth competitors with technical grooming advice.

“Andis Company is proud to support the next generation of farmers and ranchers,” says Matt K. Andis, president. “They are agriculture’s future and critical to the economic vitality of Wisconsin.”

Tyson Foods sponsors College Aggies Online scholarship competition for second straight year

For the second year, the Animal Agriculture Alliance is pleased to welcome Tyson Foods Inc. as a sponsor of its annual College Aggies Online (CAO) scholarship program. CAO, an agriculture outreach and

▶ Missouri State Fair FFA Angus Show, Aug. 7, Sedalia



▶ Overall showmanship champion is **Kimberlee Gieseker**, Holliday.



▶ Reserve overall showmanship champion is **Cort Hardy**, Diamond.

▶ Virginia Jr. Angus Breeders' Show, July 27, Chatham



▶ Peewee showmanship champion is **Ella Michael**, Staunton.



▶ Winning top honors in showmanship are (from left) **John Knight**, Montpelier Station, senior champion; **Hunter Wimmer**, Moneta, intermediate champion; **Zachary McCall**, Greenville, junior champion; and **Bo Ashworth**, Bedford, novice champion.

education scholarship competition launched Sept. 8, 2014, for the sixth year.

“The entire Tyson Foods team added so much vivacity, expertise and positivity to the College Aggies Program,” said Alliance Vice President Emily Meredith. “From donating a

truckload of protein to the club, the Montana State University Collegiate Stockgrowers, who collected the most food during the ‘Give Back’ challenge to hosting the winners at their Arkansas headquarters, to interacting with the participants on Twitter — the Tyson team does it all and we’re grateful for the contributions they’ve made to this program.”

Tyson Foods has a long history of contributing to programs that focus on five main areas: hunger relief, health and human services, education, community development and the military. “We’re always looking for new ways to talk about what it’s going to take to feed the world — and that’s modern agriculture,” said Tyson Foods’ Director of Social Media Jack Pate. “Working with the Animal Agriculture Alliance helps us to do that by engaging with young people about where food comes from while also addressing the seriousness of hunger in this country.”

The CAO program, which began in 2009, is designed to enable college students with an interest in agriculture to become confident, proactive and creative communicators using social media tools.

For more information or to sign up to compete in this fall’s program, please visit the Alliance website at www.animalagalliance.org/connect/.

