

Juniors 'Raise the Bar' in Illinois

Leadership event at the University of Illinois brings together 32 junior Angus leaders.

Angus juniors have the opportunity to travel the country with the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and learn from knowledgeable experts in the beef cattle business. Most recently, NJAA members met March 19-22 at the University of Illinois in Champaign, Ill., to participate in a Raising the Bar conference.

"The University of Illinois was an excellent meeting place for Angus juniors and provided them the opportunity to learn more about higher education, careers in agriculture and meet new friends from throughout the country," says Jaclyn Upperman, American Angus Association director of events and education.

The conference hosted 32 Angus junior leaders from 12 state junior Angus associations. Participants toured the University of Illinois, heard from industry

experts, took part in leadership training workshops and spent an evening bowling.

The group also made stops at three Angus operations: Prairie View Farms, Dameron Angus and Top Line Farm.

While on the University of Illinois campus, juniors were able to hear from a variety of professionals, including Jason Emmert, assistant dean of academic programs, who discussed the variety of livestock careers available in the state of Illinois. Participants heard from keynote speaker Lisa Burgoon who gave tips for "Turning Your Leadership in NJAA into Career Skills You Can Use."

Jennifer Shike, director of communications and marketing for the university, spoke on "Projecting Yourself in Person and Online," and a panel of undergraduates joined in a discussion on what it's like to be a college student. Juniors

were also given the opportunity to tour the university's meats lab with Katelyn Jones-Hamlow and the beef farm with Dan Shike.

"Our special thanks to those who made this event possible and helped offer a top-notch educational experience for our juniors," Upperman says.

Now in the eighth year, Raising the Bar conferences continue to foster the development of Angus youth by hosting events in four regions across the country. The NJAA, with sponsorship from the Angus Foundation, has conducted Raising the Bar conferences in cities such as Nashville, Tenn.; Ames, Iowa; Columbus, Ohio; and Stillwater, Okla. To learn more about how to participate in an upcoming Raising the Bar conference, visit www.njaa.info.



Editor's Note: This article is provided by the American Angus Association.



► Angus youth gathered at the University of Illinois for the 2015 NJAA Raising the Bar Officer Training March 19-22. Pictured are (front row, kneeling) Caroline Cowles, Catie Hope, Keegan Cassady, Lauren Beasley, (standing) Sydnee Gerken, Madelyn Gerken, Jacob Heimsoth, Laramie Chaffin, Morgan Alexander, Helena St. Clair, Tyler McGinnis, Justin Wood, Mark Alexander, Bradshaw Smoot, Nicholas Prevo, Dylan Denny, Corbin Cowles, Hunter Carrico, Tim Mardesen, Lexi Stevenson, Baxter Knapp, Katelyn Corsentino, Evan Woodbury, Andrew Livingston, Alexandria Cozzitorto, Keith Pezanoski, Eric Schaffer, Matthew Decker, Karsyn Zenor, Kallie Knott, Garrett Lampe of Top Line Farms, Suzanne Henning and Jessica Radcliffe.

Participants in Raising the Bar, University of Illinois, March 19-22, 2015

Illinois

Keegan Cassady
Laramie Chaffin
Matthew Decker
Andrew Livingston
Eric Schaffer
Keith Pezanoski

Kallie Knott
Karsyn Zenor

Iowa

Baxter Knapp
Tim Mardesen
Nicholas Prevo

Kentucky

Caroline Cowles
Corbin Cowles
Tyler McGinnis
Bradshaw Smoot

Louisiana

Katelyn Corsentino

North Carolina

Justin Wood

Oklahoma

Madelyn Gerken
Sydnee Gerken

Texas

Dylan Denny
Lexi Stevenson

Virginia

Mark Alexander
Morgan Alexander
Lauren Beasley
Catie Hope
Helena St. Clair

Indiana

Hunter Carrico

Kansas

Alexandria Cozzitorto
Evan Woodbury

Missouri

Jacob Heimsoth

Wisconsin

Suzanne Henning