

Summer Interns Join the Angus Team

Future beef industry leaders gain real-world experience in Saint Joseph, Mo.

by **Claire Carlson**, *Public Relations and Communications intern*

The American Angus Association welcomes four summer interns to headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo. Stationed throughout the office, the interns will be engaging and learning in a variety of capacities. One will write for the *Angus Journal*, another will work with multimedia and public relations, and two will travel to cattle shows and events nationwide.

The summer interns are Chelsey Smith, Courtney Spencer, Paige Nelson and Claire Carlson.

Chelsey Smith Events and Education

As the Association's event-planning intern, Smith will be active in planning and implementing a variety of activities throughout the summer, including the Beef Leaders Institute (BLI) and a Cattlemen's Boot Camp at the University of Missouri (MU), as well as attending cattle shows throughout the country.

"Chelsey has a true passion for this industry, and I'm delighted to help her learn from this experience," says Jaclyn Upperman, Association director of events and education.

Originally from Hays, Kan., Smith is a senior at Kansas State University (K-State) studying agricultural education with minors

in agronomy and animal sciences and industry. As a student, Smith is a College of Agriculture Ambassador and an Agricultural Education Club member. She volunteers weekly with Big Brothers and Big Sisters and works as a research assistant for an agricultural communications professor on campus.

"Having an internship is really valuable as a college student, especially at such a prestigious place like the American Angus Association," Smith says. "I think this summer will be a wonderful learning experience."

Courtney Spencer Junior Activities

This year's intern for junior activities, Spencer will be instrumental in assisting with the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Angus Ambassador finals and the annual Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference. She will also oversee the many life-skills contests at the 2014 NJAS in Indianapolis, Ind.

"Courtney is a great addition to our department," Upperman says. "Her interest in both communications and agriculture are valuable to our team as we plan and execute nationwide events for our Angus juniors."

Spencer, from Aurora, Mo., is a junior at MU studying animal sciences with a minor in agriculture leadership. On campus, Spencer is an officer for the Sigma Alpha professional agriculture sorority and a member of Collegiate CattleWomen. She works as a student lab assistant in a meat sciences lab and is a past Missouri state FFA officer.

"Working at the Angus Association is an amazing opportunity, and I can't think of a better internship experience," Spencer says. "I'm looking forward to spending time at shows this summer and helping with the skills contests at NJAS."

Spencer joins intern Lindsay Bowman, who began working with the junior activities department in January 2014. Bowman was selected to take part in a special, eight-month internship program that is centered on organizing youth events. Bowman attends the University of Arkansas, where she is pursuing a degree in agricultural communications and education. She earned her associate's degree at Connors State College in Oklahoma.

Claire Carlson Public Relations and Communications

Carlson is joining forces with the Public Relations and Communications



Chelsey Smith



Courtney Spencer



Claire Carlson



Paige Nelson

Department this summer. She will gain experience in all aspects of the Association's multimedia approach to promoting Angus cattle, including writing, editing, design, photography and video production. She will also play an important role in promoting and covering events at the 2014 NJAS.

"Claire's enthusiasm makes her a great addition to the Angus team," says Eric Grant, Angus Productions Inc. (API) general manager. "This summer, she will have many opportunities to learn and expand her print and digital communications skills."

Carlson is from Shawnee, Kan., and grew up heavily involved in the Kansas 4-H program. Carlson is a recent graduate from K-State with a degree in agricultural communications and a minor in business. On campus, Carlson was a College of Agriculture Ambassador, a K-State tour guide and chapter president of her sorority.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to work with the American Angus Association," Carlson says. "Everyone is so friendly, and I'm ready to dive in and learn this summer."

Paige Nelson **Angus Journal Editorial**

As announced in the June issue, Nelson joined the *Angus Journal* editorial team in late April. Throughout the summer, she is responsible for contributing to the *Angus Journal*, *Angus Beef Bulletin*, *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA* and *Angus Journal Daily* electronic newsletter. She will also work on the 2014 NJAA/*Angus Journal* Photo Contest and attend multiple industry events.

"Paige has already proven herself a valued team member," says Shauna Hermel, *Angus Journal* editor. "She's enthusiastic about the cattle business and serious about supplying content to fill our members' information needs. Being from Idaho, she adds a Western range perspective to our editorial team that I'm sure we will rely on for years to come as she establishes her freelance business."

Nelson was raised on a commercial Angus cow-calf ranch in Idaho and graduated from Brigham Young University-Idaho (BYU-I) in December 2013 with a bachelor's degree in animal science and a minor in journalism. Since graduation, Nelson has pursued a freelance writing career and has been published by the *Angus Journal*, *Post Register's Intermountain Farm and Ranch Magazine* and *Progressive Cattleman*.

"I know this will be a great opportunity for me to sharpen my skills as an agricultural journalist, as I will be learning from some of the best in the business," Nelson says. "You don't get more prestigious in the beef world than Angus."

