

Young Cattlemen's

Angus represented at elite beef industry conference.

Kurt Kangas, regional manager for the American Angus Association, and Cortney Hill-Dukehart Cates, current American Angus Auxiliary president, were among more than 50 young cattlemen and women selected to participate in the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) 34th Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC). Kangas was sponsored by the American Angus Association, and the Angus Foundation sponsored Cates.

The YCC program is a comprehensive, nationwide tour of beef industry sectors, created to enhance leadership skills in young beef industry professionals.

"YCC is a prestigious and competitive program designed to foster the future leadership of our industry," said Forrest Roberts, NCBA CEO. "The participants selected to attend YCC were chosen because of their exceptional contributions to the beef industry and their potential to be a strong voice in our future development."

Responsible for the states of Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah, Kangas travels extensively in the West to help keep producers and consumers informed about the Angus breed and the programs the Association offers, as well as promoting beef in general.

Prior to joining the Association staff, he spent 12 years at Basin Angus Ranch in Hobson, Mont. Kangas graduated from Montana State University with a bachelor's degree in range science.

Hill-Dukehart Cates is a graduate of Towson University in Maryland with a degree in secondary education. She taught social studies at Glenelg High School for three years before marrying Tyler Cates and moving to Modoc, Ind.

A former Miss American Angus, she and her husband serve as junior advisors for the Indiana Junior Angus Association. She works with her husband at Cates Farms, one of the most dominant Shorthorn herds in the country. They are in the process of expanding their Angus herd, which produced the 2002 bred-and-owned reserve champion at the National Junior Angus Show.

Cattlemen's conference

The eight-day tour began at NCBA headquarters in Denver, Colo., where participants were given an organizational overview of NCBA and the National Beef Checkoff Program. While in Denver, the group also heard from representatives of CattleFax and the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). They toured a Safeway retail store and learned about Rancher's Reserve brand beef marketing efforts. The group spent a day in Greeley, Colo., visiting JBS Five



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NCBA

► Selected through an application process, the Angus Foundation sponsored Cortney Hill-Dukehart Cates in attending the 34th Young Cattlemen's Conference (YCC).

► Whitestone Farms, Aldie, Va., hosted the YCC group for a tour and barbecue.



Conference 2013



► The American Angus Association sponsored Regional Manager Kurt Kangas in attending the 2013 YCC conference and tour.



► The YCC group spent a day in Greeley, Colo., visiting JBS Five Rivers feedyards and processing facilities.

Rivers feedyards and processing facilities.

“It is really important for participants to see each sector of the beef industry — from farm to fork,” says Kangas. “Traveling from a cow-calf ranch to a feedlot and processing plant really drives home the point that our industry is composed of many sectors, which are all committed to produce a healthy end product.”

In Chicago, the group met with the senior management of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) at the Chicago Board of Trade. They had the opportunity to watch activity on the trading floor and witness futures trading firsthand.

Participants also visited Otto & Sons Industries, a family-owned company providing quality products and custom solutions for the food industry since 1909. This tour offered a view of how boxed beef is turned into custom order portions for both major restaurant chains and some of the nation’s top steakhouses.

The group then traveled to Washington, D.C., where participants received an issues briefing from NCBA’s government affairs staff about policy issues currently facing the cattle industry. The group then traveled to Aldie, Va., for a tour and barbecue at Whitestone Farms, one of the nation’s elite purebred Angus operations.

The next day, these future leaders were given the opportunity to visit one-on-one with members of their state’s congressional delegation, expressing their viewpoints regarding the beef industry and their cattle operations. During their congressional visits, participants focused on issues including the 2013 Farm Bill, federal lands ranching and overreaching regulations proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

They finished the day with a reception hosted by John Deere at the company’s Washington office.

For more information on the YCC program or to nominate someone for next year’s tour, contact your state cattlemen’s association or Marvin Kokes at 303-850-3339 or mkokes@beef.org.



Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from releases provided by the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association.



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