

# Wranglin' Up Your Future

Build relationships, develop leadership skills at 2006 LEAD.

by Meghan Soderstrom

**A**ttention junior Angus enthusiasts: Are you looking for a fun summer activity to increase your leadership skills, learn more about ag business and build relationships with the next generation of industry leaders? The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and the American Angus Association have just the event for you!

Make plans now to attend the annual Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, Aug. 3-6 in Oklahoma City, Okla. Open to NJAA members who are 14 to 21 years old, the conference is themed "Wranglin' Up Your Future" and includes activities such as industry tours, guest speakers and workshops conducted by the NJAA Board.

"LEAD is a great opportunity for junior members to learn more about Angus cattle, explore other facets of agriculture, experience agriculture in other parts of the country and make new friends," says Renee Thelen, NJAA leadership director.

## WRANGLIN' UP YOUR FUTURE



AUGUST 3-6, 2006 ★ OKLAHOMA CITY

Conference tours and recreational activities will offer an inside look at exciting Oklahoma attractions and allow time for fun and friendship. Beef industry leaders will provide invaluable insight about the business of agriculture, while motivational speakers will energize attendees and encourage them to accept the responsibility of leading the Angus industry.

"If you want to be a leader, you need to invest in yourself to give yourself the skills necessary to be a good leader," says James

Fisher, Association director of junior activities. "You can learn some of those skills and learn more about the agriculture industry by attending this conference."

### Four action-packed days

The conference kicks off Thursday, Aug. 3, with team-building exercises and various speakers focused on Oklahoma agriculture. On Friday, the conference takes to the road. The group will tour the National Cowboy & Western

Heritage Museum, the historic Oklahoma City stockyards and the Oklahoma City National Memorial. Attendees will also visit Grissom Implement, a John Deere dealership owned by a former NJAA director and his family, before heading off to tailgate and attend a Minor League Baseball (MiLB) game.

On Saturday, conference attendees will participate in workshops led by the NJAA directors. Topics include livestock judging, selection and marketing; living a healthy

## 2006 LEAD Conference tentative schedule

Visit [www.njaa.info](http://www.njaa.info) for the latest conference information. The conference will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Oklahoma City, Okla.

### Thursday, Aug. 3

All flights should arrive prior to 2:30 p.m.

- 2 p.m. Registration
- 4 p.m. Icebreakers
- 5 p.m. Oklahoma agriculture speakers
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner
- 7:30 p.m. Retiring address from Alicia Kramer
- 7:40 p.m. Discovering beauty, junior board
- 9 p.m. Roundtable discussion, newly elected junior board
- 9:30 p.m. Junior board skit

### Friday, Aug. 4

- 7 a.m. Breakfast
- 8 a.m. Load buses for the day's activities, including:
  - National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum
  - Historic Oklahoma City stockyards
  - The Oklahoma City National Memorial
  - Grissom Implement
  - Oklahoma Red Hawks baseball game
  - Retiring address from Renee Thelen
  - Vespers, newly elected junior board

### Saturday, Aug. 5

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:15 a.m. Group and state photos
- 8:45 a.m. Retiring address from Curtis Bryant
- 8:55 a.m. Taking risks
- 9:45 a.m. Junior board-led workshops, round 1
- 10:45 a.m. Junior board-led workshops, round 2
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch
- 12:30 p.m. Retiring address from Heath McPherson
- 12:45 p.m. Junior board-led workshops, round 3
- 1:45 p.m. Junior board-led workshops, round 4
- 2:45 p.m. Retiring address from Casey Jentz
- 3 p.m. Motivational speaker, Rhett Laubach
- 5:15 p.m. Depart for Express Ranches
  - Ranch tour, dinner and dance

### Sunday, Aug. 6

- 8 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:40 a.m. Retiring address from Jake Tiedeman
- 9 a.m. Morning devotional
- 9:15 a.m. Challenge speaker, Rhett Laubach
- 10:30 a.m. Departure (no flights prior to 1 p.m.)

lifestyle; and world and industry current events, as well as an interactive workshop in a game show format. Rhett Laubach will also speak to the group about leadership development, and Express Ranches will open their gates for an exclusive tour of their ranching operation. The day concludes with a dinner and dance hosted by Express Ranches.

Laubach will wrap up the conference on Sunday morning before juniors travel home with new knowledge gained and friendships formed.

New board members elected at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Indianapolis, Ind., will also start their leadership responsibilities at LEAD.

### **Forming friendships**

Workshops and guest speakers are the foundation of any leadership conference, but Fisher says the tours and recreational activities are an important part of the conference, because they help build lasting relationships among junior members from across the country.

“You can’t entirely build a relationship by sitting in a classroom and listening to a speaker present,” he says. “There has to be that interaction between the individuals attending the conference, so they can build

those relationships that will stay with them after they leave the conference and last throughout the rest of their lives.”

Although the conference is geared for junior members, parents and advisors can easily find value in it, too. Fisher says he encourages adults to participate in the workshops, because the adult-youth interaction “helps create better relationships and facilitates understanding between the generations.

“The decisions you make today, such as attending this conference, will help establish the opportunities that you will have down the road,” he continues. “The relationships help open doors for you, and your leadership skills get you jobs and help you succeed in your career.”



### **A foundation of support**

Generous gifts from Angus breeders, allied industry interests and friends enable the Angus Foundation to provide financial support to the NJAA to conduct this dynamic and motivational LEAD Conference, says

Milford Jenkins, Foundation director of development.

“LEAD exemplifies the Angus Foundation’s commitment to investing in Angus youth, and we’re proud to be able to make a difference in the young men and women’s lives who will attend this conference,” Jenkins says.

“Supporting Angus youth has always been a very high priority of the Angus Foundation,” he continues. “This steadfast commitment to helping Angus youth develop invaluable skills and training through exemplary educational and leadership activities, like LEAD, enables the Foundation to bring its mission to life.”

### **Take action**

Space for this exciting conference is limited, so register soon. Early registration for juniors, advisors and parents is \$175 and due June 15. After this deadline, the rate increases to \$200, if space is still available. Registration and release forms are available in the green NJAA information packet that was mailed to all junior members earlier this year. You can also register online at [www.njaa.info](http://www.njaa.info). For more information contact the Junior Activities Department at (816) 383-5100, or visit the NJAA Web site.

