

# DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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Fall 2017



## STAR

### Extra! Extra! Breaking News!

**A**ttention all state officers and advisors! The National Junior Angus Board has established a new conference dedicated to building leaders at the state level, State Training and Angus Retreat (STAR). STAR is designed to help state officers learn what type of leader they are, how to help grow their

state associations, and to provide effective tools and resources to each state. The conference will consist of empowering speakers, leadership workshops, and a chance to tour the headquarters and learn about the American Angus Association.

STAR will take place in St. Joseph, Mo., March 23-25. Registration will

be open Jan. 1 and close Feb. 15, so be sure to mark your calendars. The registration form will be available online and in the Green Book. All state officers are welcome! We encourage you to attend and will see you there!

— *Michaela Clouser,*  
*membership director*

## Chairman's Perspective:

# Go for the Goal

I'm the type of person that loves making to-do lists. I love writing down what needs to get done and eventually, being able to cross it off my list. Of course, I make daily to-do lists like finish chemistry homework, write a paper for my ag communications class, and attend the Block & Bridle meeting, but I also like to make lists of long-term things I want to accomplish — my goals for the future.

Setting goals and pursuing them is my personal motivation. Setting goals can help a person accomplish tasks and achieve new personal heights. Let me take you back a few years ago in my life to when I set one of my biggest goals.

I began exhibiting Angus cattle when I was 10 years old, but before I showed cattle, I spent all of my time in the hog barn. I loved showing pigs. I went to local, state and national shows all over the country. Since I was so invested in showing pigs, I did not have the opportunity to go to as many cattle shows, but that all changed when I was 15 years old and attended my first National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Louisville, Ky. From the time I stepped in the barn until the day I left, I was in awe. The contests, educational clinics



Madison Butler

and shows made the event like none other I had attended. That year I also served as a voting delegate for my state. It was at my first National Junior Angus Association Annual Meeting that I decided one day I wanted a green jacket.

There were **five key steps** I knew I would have to take in order to accomplish my goal. First, I had to **outline my goal**. My official goal was one day I wanted to be a member of the National Junior Angus Board of Directors (NJAB) to serve this association and leave an impact.

After I had my goal in mind, **I designed a plan of action**. To accomplish my goal, I knew I would have to become more involved, meet more people, and learn more about the association. The first year, I became more involved by becoming the president of my state association. The next year, I served as the junior chairman of the NJAS. Those opportunities allowed me to meet more people. Through those connections, I was able to learn more about the association.

Next, **I set a timeline** of when I wanted to accomplish my goal. At 15, this was a long-term goal. I knew I wanted to run for the board after my freshman year of college, so when I was 19 years old,

the goal transitioned into a short-term goal. I knew within the year, I would be running for the NJAB. My timeline helped keep me accountable and striving to accomplish the goal.

It was important that **I reviewed my goal list often**. While striving to achieve my goal of being on the NJAB, I also had other goals I wanted to achieve, but looking over my goals reminded me which ones were most important to me.

Finally, in 2016, I accomplished my goal, but it didn't stop there. After I achieved my goal, **I reviewed how I actually accomplished my goal**. Remember that plan of action I set for myself? After I became a member of the NJAB, I reviewed that plan. Those steps I had lined out in my plan were the steps I actually took toward achieving the goal. Of course, some things changed along the way. I decided to wait to run for the board until after my sophomore year of college, but I used the plan I set for myself to achieve my goal.

After you accomplish one goal, don't stop there. Continue to push yourself and chase your dreams. Using the steps of outlining a goal, designing a plan of action, setting a timeline, reviewing your goal list, and reviewing how you accomplished your goals are steps that will enable your goal-setting to become reality. Sometimes, we work really hard and don't accomplish our goals, but don't let that stop you from continuing to set goals and working to achieve them.

— Madison Butler, chairman



### TERMS UP IN 2018

**MADISON BUTLER, Ind., chairman, [mbutler\\_44@hotmail.com](mailto:mbutler_44@hotmail.com)**

**WILL POHLMAN, Ark., vice chairman, [fwpohlma@uark.edu](mailto:fwpohlma@uark.edu)**

**CATIE HOPE, Va., communications director, [chope714@gmail.com](mailto:chope714@gmail.com)**

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**JORDYN WAGNER, Mont., leadership director, [jordynlynnwagner@gmail.com](mailto:jordynlynnwagner@gmail.com)**

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### TERMS UP IN 2019

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**MADISON SUNDSBAK, N.D., [madison.sundsbak@jacks.sdstate.edu](mailto:madison.sundsbak@jacks.sdstate.edu)**

# Apply Today for a Seat at the CAB table



From Jan. 3-4, 2018, Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) will host the Youth Beef Leaders seminar at the corporate office in Wooster, Ohio. This seminar also welcomes the NJAA Board of Directors, Miss American Angus and leaders from the Canadian Junior Angus Association. CAB is proud to open additional seats to five qualified candidates for an all-expenses-paid trip to join this year's class. CAB will accept applications through Nov. 14, 2017. Eligible applicants must be junior, regular or life members of the American Angus Association and 17-22 years old by Sept. 1, 2017.

Participants of the Youth Beef Leaders seminar will experience personal growth as an Angus leader through the following:

- Insight of the marketing messaging used to create pull-through demand for the best Angus beef
- A look inside the global protein market and a discussion on where the *Certified Angus Beef*® brand fits
- Discussion about what the ultimate beef consumer wants beyond the pasture
- An interactive carcass grading and fabrication session with corporate meat scientists

- A lesson on how the value created by the brand equates to more dollars for registered Angus breeders
  - A chance to network with staff members and other young beef industry leaders from across the country
- Applications are due via email or postmarked by Nov. 13. Visit [CABpartners.com](http://CABpartners.com) to download the application today, or contact Kara Lee at [klee@certifiedangusbeef.com](mailto:klee@certifiedangusbeef.com) or 812-653-0020.

— Kara Lee,  
CAB supply programs manager

## Chronicles of the Coordinators Being a Great Leader Isn't About You...

At one point or another in our lives, we are all placed in a leadership role. Whether that may be at school, work or even at home, we will be expected to become leaders. Within the NJAA, we hope to give you the tools to step into that position through workshops, conferences and guest speakers. What makes the difference between a good leader and a great leader? Is it who can give orders the best? Is it who can take charge the fastest?

The reality is that being a great leader isn't about those things at all. Being a great leader is all about your team, and how you represent yourself as a member of that team. There are what seem like hundreds of "traits" that a good leader can be described with, but how one puts those traits into action is what really sets the bar for a great leader.

### Learn to delegate

Delegating tasks to the appropriate people is one of the most important skills you can develop. The more tasks you take on yourself, the lower the quality of your work will become, and the less your teammates will feel like a valuable part of the team. The key to delegation is identifying the strengths of your team. Find out what each team member enjoys doing most. Chances are if they find that task more enjoyable, they will likely put more thought and effort behind it.



Bailey Palmer

### Talk about it ... effectively!

Knowing what you want accomplished may seem clear in your head, but if you try to explain it to someone else, the goal can easily be lost in translation. Being able to clearly describe what you want done is extremely important. The most effective leaders know

they don't have all the answers. Instead, they constantly welcome and seek new knowledge and insist on tapping into the thoughts of those around them.

Take it from Albert Einstein: "I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious."

Be inquisitive. Help tap into others' strengths one question and conversation at a time.



Caitlyn Brandt

### You're a leader, but not superior

If you expect your team to work hard, you're going to need to lead by example. There is no greater motivation than seeing the leader working alongside everyone else. By proving your commitment to your role, you will instill that same hardworking energy to the team.

### Get to know your team's strengths

Not all humans are the same. You have to work with team members with different backgrounds, personality traits and methods of working. Some people work well under pressure, others don't. Some respond best to "tough love," others take it personally and shut down. To optimize your effectiveness as a leader, you must have the ability to customize your approach to each person. Your ability to execute this concept will play a huge role in your ability to get the best work out of your team.

Leadership isn't about you being great; it's about your ability to enable others to be great. Always remember that when there is a goal to reach, your team will help you get there. Being a great leader isn't about you or the traits you possess, but instead, it is about how you utilize the traits of your team.

— Bailey Palmer and Caitlyn Brandt, event coordinators

# Understanding Single Step

**S**ingle step was put into place by the American Angus Association July 7, 2017. It has affected not just the Angus breed, but the entire beef industry. Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) Director of Genetic Service Kelli Retallick broke it down on just how it will affect Angus producers and the junior members for years to come.

## In a simple explanation, what is the single step method?

Single step is a new method we are using to calculate expected progeny differences, or EPDs. It is allowing us to use DNA testing to understand where certain genes are being passed down from in our animals' pedigrees. Think of your brothers and sisters. Even though you may be full sibs, you are not all exactly alike. The reason for this is although you share the same mom and dad, you do not receive the same exact genes from both parents as your brothers or sisters. So even though you are 50% of your dad or 50% of your mom, you yourself may actually get more genes from your grandfather on your dad's side, for example.

This random sampling of genes is why your brother is taller than you or your sister looks more like your mom's side of the family. With our new method, we are tracking which genes come from where so we can make better predictions of how those progeny will be as future parents.

## How will single step affect the junior membership?

This update will allow the junior Angus members, as the future of the Angus breed, to build their herds with the most accurate tools possible. It's a leading-edge technology that will propel genetic selection of Angus cattle into the next era. The more accurate tools we have available today will go on to affect the quality of cattle we have to raise for generations to come.

## What changes were set in motion by single step?

Because of this update, we did see re-rankings of several young animals. Young animals saw the most re-ranking because we have the least amount of information on these animals. Most of these young animals who changed drastically did so because their EPDs were heavily relying on the old genomic prediction.

When we change the method of using genomic results (DNA) in our EPD predictions, it changed the prediction we already had. Many of our older animals, especially proven artificial insemination (AI) sires with thousands of calves recorded at the Association, saw minimal re-ranking because we had already proven their genetic value as a parent through progeny performance data.

## What part of the beef industry and the Angus breed will be affected most by single step?

The seedstock sector of our beef industry felt the immediate impact of the changes experienced on July 7. While less emphasis is placed on EPDs when we show cattle in the showing, EPDs hold a large market value and equate to a lot of money for others in the seedstock business. It affects peoples' buying and selling decisions in a big way. The good news is that seedstock breeders are able to sell a more reliable product to the commercial producers, which will hopefully lead to more success for those commercial customers and drive more sales of Angus genetics to the commercial cow-calf person.

## Moving forward, what can Angus breeders expect next?

While a lot of change happened July 7, moving forward the changes in EPDs will only be due to additional data and genotypes being added to our database. No huge changes in the near future to the EPDs themselves are planned. However, AGI is excited to announce Angus GS™. It is a new genomic profiling tool (DNA test) built by Angus for Angus cattle.

This will help AGI and the Association be in the driver's seat of future research that directly affects its Angus members.

## Which EPDs were affected the most drastically?

Across the board we saw some EPDs widen in their range of values and some shrink. For instance, Milk EPD was one whose standard deviation shrunk quite a bit, which means the lowest EPDs reported for milk are no longer quite as low and the highest are not quite as high. For a trait like dry-matter intake (DMI), the range did just the opposite. This is a trait we see a lot more spread in after July 7.

## How has this improved Angus genetics?

The Association, AGI and our research partner University of Georgia–Athens worked tirelessly for three years not only developing and applying this new methodology, but also making sure this methodology was the direction to take. In every test when we put our new single step system head to head with the old, single step proved superior. Tests show single step does a better job of predicting actual progeny performance than the old. Because of this, members will be able to select superior, younger animals sooner to drive the rate of genetic progress to continue make our Angus cattle better than any other breed out there.

— *Catie Hope, communications director*

**ANGUS**  
**THE BUSINESS BREED**



# Scholarships

College is one of the most exciting ventures in anyone's life. It's the time to meet great people, learn new things, and get involved in clubs or groups with similar interests as you. However, whether college is years in your future or you're currently attending, the financial burden can dim the excitement. Thankfully, the Angus breed has great entities like the Angus Foundation and the American Angus Auxiliary that provide scholarships that can alleviate the burden of college tuition.

The Angus Foundation and the American Angus Auxiliary both offer numerous scholarships annually to well-deserving Angus youth, and you could be one of those recipients! The Foundation awards and helps oversee the distribution of more than \$275,000 in undergraduate and graduate student scholarships to applicants across the country. These scholarships range anywhere from \$500-\$10,000, and can be used to assist with tuition, books and housing. The best part is that the application process is so simple! It's one application that enables you to be considered for the various scholarships that the Foundation has to offer.

The American Angus Auxiliary also presents 10 scholarships annually. The total amount awarded will range from \$12,000 to \$15,000. These scholarships may be defined as financial grants for which no equivalent work is required. The application is just one easy application that can be done online or mailed in. Different state auxiliaries may also give out scholarships, so contact your state auxiliary to find out that information.

College is the time to gain once-in-a-lifetime experiences. Do not let finances be the reason to not achieve your goals. With the support of the Angus Foundation and the American Angus Auxiliary, new opportunities are waiting. Even if college is down the road, start to think about what you can do to stand out, and what you can do to make sure your hard work doesn't go unnoticed. If college is in your near future, or even currently enrolled, and you haven't applied, I strongly encourage you to consider sending in your applications. Opportunities await!

You can find more information and applications on the Angus Foundation and American Angus Auxiliary websites! Happy applying!

— Dawson Dal Porto, director

# Bronze, Silver and Gold Aren't Just for Olympians

We all love to watch our favorite athletes win the gold medal at the Olympics, but you can take home the bronze, silver and gold, too! The National Junior Recognition Program is designed to recognize the outstanding achievements of Angus juniors throughout their career. This recognition is organized into three tiers: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Unlike the Olympics, however, you can take home each



of these distinctions.

Bronze and Silver recognitions can be accomplished at any time during a junior's career, but the earlier you receive this recognition the better.



Interested juniors should fill out an application for their Bronze and/or Silver award and submit it to the Events and Education Department of the American Angus Association any time throughout the year. The application asks you to report your achievement in four main areas: association activities, competition activities, performance testing activities, and producing and merchandising Angus. The only difference between Bronze and Silver is the number of activities in each area.



After receiving your Bronze and Silver awards, you are eligible to receive the highest level of recognition: the Gold award. Applications for the Gold award are due Dec. 31 prior to your last year of eligibility, and the award is given at your last National Junior Angus Show.

Just like the Olympic distinctions, every junior should aspire to earn their Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. If you are already an active and engaged member in and out of the showring, then fill out your application and receive the recognition that you deserve! Continue to stay active throughout your junior career and always work towards being an all-star junior who earns their Gold award their final year.

— Will Pohlman, vice chairman

# Meet the New Six NJAA



**Madison Sundsbak**



**Jera Pipkin**



**Dawson Dal Porto**

## If at First You Don't Succeed, Try, Try Again

**W**e've all heard the saying, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." If you are like me, this saying is often easier said than done, especially if a lot of adversity tries to get in your way. The showring is the exact place where you have to keep pushing through if good things don't happen your first few times in the ring. What if I told you that you are not alone in your struggles in the ring? Did you know that your Membership Director Michaela Clowser had a heifer poop on her when she was 10 at the Nebraska State Fair? Or how about Catie Hope having her heifer step all over her foot and get away from her at her very first show? I guarantee you did not know that when Jordyn Wagner was 15, she had a heifer hit her square in the chest and knocked her flat on the ground in showmanship. When I was 11, I had two different calves step on my foot at the Kentucky State Fair and they ended up breaking my foot.

As you can tell, even your junior board members have had plenty of our own struggles in the showring, especially when we first started out (trust me, there are plenty more stories than those I shared). But, as the quote says, the real lesson is that you have to keep trying if things don't go your way. Being persistent and not giving up is important in not just cattle showing, but life in general. When you continue to work hard in the face of adversity, that is when you become truly successful. "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!"

— *Corbin Cowles, Foundation director*

## Match

### Hints:

1. I can hold my breath for 39 seconds.
2. I broke my arm and leg before I was 3 years old.
3. I have traveled to six countries.
4. I once showed a goat named Junior.
5. I started showing hogs at age 3.
6. I love cats.

— *Madison Sundsbak*

Key: 1) Broderic Fitzgerald, 2) Jera Pipkin, 3) Hayley DeHaan, 4) Dawson Dal Porto, 5) Madison Sundsbak, 6) Sydnee Gerken

# Board of Directors



Sydnee Gerken

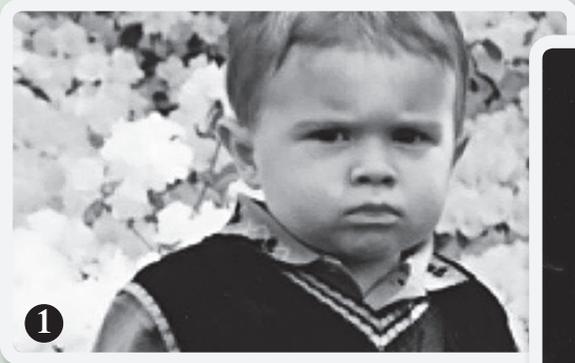


Broderic Fitzgerald



Hayley DeHaan

## the Little Six to the New Six





# Advocacy: Easy as 1, 2, 3

**W**ithin the agriculture industry, we face a problem with consumer awareness. This is nothing new, but the epidemic grows every single day. As producers, we need to amplify our advocacy efforts so that our message is better communicated and we can continue to do what we love to do. Making a difference in your community can happen with three simple steps.

## 1. Promote positively

As agriculturalists, we have to make sure we are constantly promoting our industry in a positive light. Citizens within communities have gained an anti-agriculture mind-set simply because of the negativity spread by activist groups. Activist groups lead consumers to believe in corporate agriculture. It is our job to ensure that we are sharing our story with consumers. Explain your family's heritage, post on social media and push our purpose. Nearly 97% of farms in the United States are family-owned and -operated. Making sure that consumers are aware of our purpose allows the negative mind-set to be diminished.

## 2. Combat controversy

Though most of us have grown up in rural communities, we still hear about controversy against our industry every day. Each and every one of us has a voice and we need to make sure that it is heard. Whenever you hear anyone talking negatively about agriculture, that is a prime opportunity to step in and start talking. However, it is important to remember not to tell the consumer they are wrong. You just need to step in and share your story from your perspective as an Angus producer. This is an opportunity to explain why we do what we do and how that makes a positive influence on our operation and in our lives. Consumers care. They just are looking for the connection and background knowledge that we have.

## 3. Research results

One of the biggest misconceptions about the agricultural industry revolves around antibiotic use. When consumers read a study, it is not effective. These are presented in terms

they do not understand or are not familiar with. The key is consumers want to hear this information from the producers — people like us. It is our job to stay up to date on information being published so we can share the news consumers want to hear about our everyday lives and put it in terms they can understand.

It is our job to better promote ourselves and our industry. We have the appropriate tools and resources to do it; we just have to get to work!

— Jera Pipkin, director

## New Angus Genomic Test

The Angus industry as we know it is about to advance like never before seen. It is very exciting to hear about the incorporation of a new genomic test. The team of geneticists at Angus Genetics Inc. has designed a 50K test that is built specifically for Angus cattle, Angus GS™. Over time, Angus breeders will benefit with much more accurate results. This test is optimized to cover the entire genome, leaving very few gaps, which will increase the value of expected progeny differences (EPDs) overall. With the advancement of technology and more research, this test will play a big role in finding additional information on favorable traits such as fertility and tenderness.

It is also great to know that the price of Angus GS, at \$37, is significantly lower than similar tests, creating a savings of more than 50% of current high-density genomic tests in the market. Looking at this product as a major upgrade from the past, this should help producers feel much more confident in using genomic tools to make key decisions from the test results. Angus GS will be available in November. Get excited because this Angus-specific DNA profile is going to open the opportunity to grow your herd with more information than ever before.

— Broderic Fitzgerald, director

## Raising the Bar in the Cowboy State

Calling all juniors! We will be Kickin' It with the Cowboys for this year's Raising the Bar conference in the great state of Oklahoma, home of Oklahoma State University, some of the best Angus cattle in the country, and hardworking cowboys and cowgirls. This spring, the

National Junior Angus Association invites you to check out a great agricultural



college, grow as a leader, and make lifelong friends and memories. The NJAA will be holding a Raising the Bar conference at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla., April 19-22. Registration opens on Jan. 1 and will close on March 1, so be sure to mark your calendars!

The goal of this three-day conference is to develop youth leadership, explore education opportunities, and ignite passion for Angus cattle! During Raising the Bar, juniors will have the opportunity to go on a full campus tour and meet with professors and faculty in various agricultural departments at Oklahoma State University. In addition, NJAA members will also be touring the impressive purebred beef unit and research facilities at OSU. An exciting highlight of the conference is that juniors will see some of the most prestigious Angus ranches in the country. Attendees will spend time in Oklahoma City learning and exploring the rich Okie cowboy history at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and in the historic district of Brick Town. Raising the Bar can open the doors to future education opportunities and new experiences that will expand your Angus knowledge. I encourage ALL juniors to attend — I promise you won't regret it! See you all in Oklahoma!

— *Michaela Clowser,*  
membership director

F H V R D A M T Z O E U G O C  
 V A H Z E W N V R S M W F R A  
 B L C A T B A G S A U T U M N  
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## Autumn Angus Word Search

Angus

Apple

Autmn

Candy

Cat

Costume

Fall

Halloween

Leaves

October

Pumpkin

Scarecrow

Scary

Treat

Trick

(Key on page 11)

# Career Spotlight: Lobbying

**W**hat do you want to do when you grow up, or after you graduate? What are you passionate about? Every one of us is faced with these questions throughout our life. I talked with Scott Yager, of National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), about his passion and career as a lobbyist.

## What made you decide to pursue a career as a lobbyist? Did you always want to be a lobbyist?

Originally, I was an attorney. I received my certificate in environmental law. After graduation, I got a job at the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the clean water department. Not too long ago, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association offered me a position as a lobbyist and I took it. I currently serve as a part of the environmental counsel handling environmental policies and legislation that affect agriculturalists. Mostly because of my background, what I work with is water and occasionally emissions.

## What does an average day in the office look like for you?

What I love about my job is that every day is different. Some days I am on Capitol Hill meeting with committee leaders to introduce amendments to legislation, and other days I sit in on testimonies. Occasionally, I will visit with producers to hear what they want. Ultimately, my favorite part of what I do is being able to influence tomorrow. Congress is like a chessboard and it is my job to influence and strategize to move the pieces that best benefit producers.

## What are some different policies and legislation in the House and Senate right now that could affect the way cattlemen in the U.S. operate tomorrow?

One big piece of legislation that is up for revote is CERCLA (Comprehensive Environmental Response Compensation and Liability Act). CERCLA was introduced as a governmental program to clean up "brown fields," which are abandoned chemical fields. This program was never meant to regulate agriculture. However, due to recent proposed changes in the wording, cattlemen would have to report to their emissions from poop, including ones such as ammonia and hydrogen sulfide.

The big question is why should agriculturalists be required to report this? More importantly, how do they measure emissions

with no federal standard? Consequences of not following this possible new regulation open the door for the EPA to fine agriculturalists.

Additionally, there is a Civilian Lawsuit Provision that allows regular civilians, including environmentalist groups, to sue agriculturalists who do not comply with fines upwards of \$50,000 per day of unreported emissions. I come in during instances such as this to change wording of legislation to protect agriculturalists. Another project that I have been working on is WOTUS (Water of the United States). With that, I have been focusing more on decreasing the need for water permits and regulations.

## How does lobbying relate to ag advocacy? Why is advocating ag in politics just as important as advocating ag to consumers?

Lobbying relates to ag advocacy, as it is another form of promoting agriculture. It is important to lobby and advocate to key decision-makers in office to make sure the ag community's voice is heard. Consumers influence the demands of the products producers create. Politics influence the way that producers create a product. It is important to advocate to both sides of the spectrum as they both play a huge part in influencing the way producers do their jobs.

On the political end of the spectrum, ag advocacy is important to ensure that agriculturalists still have the ability

to do the job they love tomorrow. My job is to help reduce unwanted regulations to help make the job of a producer that much easier, and on occasion, cheaper. Most senators and representatives do not have an agriculture background, nor have they been exposed to the trials and triumphs of agricultural life. It is my job to share that with them and provide a voice for producers who cannot be at Capitol Hill to do it in person.

## What can juniors do to play their part?

Juniors can reach out to their local representatives and senators and share their ag story. Politicians want to hear from juniors who are passionate about advocating what they love. Have a strong voice and use it often. Be educated about the industry and share what you know with those who don't. Lastly, always, always, always stay involved with your associations to better yourselves and those around you.

— Hayley DeHaan, director



# New Faces

Hi! My name is **Tonya Theis** and I am the administrative assistant for the Events and Education Department of the American Angus Association. I am from Leavenworth, Kan. While I do not show cattle, I am a show mom. My husband, Jerry, who is a veterinarian and partner in April Valley Farms, and I have four children: Cody, 23; Michael, 23; Megan, 21; and Kelsey, 13.



**Tonya Theis**

I am very excited to be working for the American Angus Association in the Events and Education Department. It has been my life's work being involved with youth activities, from teaching western riding lessons to working with our youth in Leavenworth County in 4-H as a community leader. I also enjoy working with children with special needs and Wounded Warriors as a portion of my nonprofit organization, Horses 4 Hope.

I look forward to working with the youth of this program and wish each one of you much success at your Angus events this year!

— *Tonya Theis, administrative assistant*

Hi there! I'm **Bailey Palmer**, (photo on page 3) the new events coordinator in the Events and Education Department. I am a recent graduate of Colorado State University with a degree in animal science. I am excited to be a part of the Angus team and look forward to all of the opportunities ahead of us!

A Colorado native, I grew up on a 300-head commercial cow-calf operation near the small town of Kremmling. I am the fifth generation on both sides to raise cattle in Middle Park, and my love for cattle has been instilled in me from day one. My family also owns a club calf business, and I have been in the showing for as long as I can remember with steers, heifers and pigs. In our free time, our family loves to spend time together hunting and fishing or any other activities in the great outdoors.

While attending Colorado State, I had the incredible opportunity to work as assistant livestock manager at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo., where my passion for show coordination was ignited. After interning for the American Maine-Anjou Association last summer, I knew that working with juniors within a breed association is what I wanted to do for a career. I am very lucky that this job combines show coordination and junior activities. It is a dream come true that it allows me to do it for the most prominent cattle breed in the world.

I look forward to meeting more juniors and producers, and working with our department to continue to provide exciting and educational opportunities for all of our members. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of the Angus family.

— *Bailey Palmer, event coordinator*

# LEAD 2018

Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference 2018 will be hosted in Billings, Montana! I am more than excited to bring you not only to my hometown, but also the Big Sky Country. My first LEAD in Fort Collins was the first time I opened up, made new friends and created memories of a lifetime. I am so thankful to be a part of the National Junior Angus Association and to be able to leave my mark on junior members while bringing them to "cow country."



While LEAD 2017 in North Carolina was very eye opening and the juniors were able to expand their knowledge of various types of agriculture, "Angus Under the Big Sky" will bring juniors back to their cattle roots.

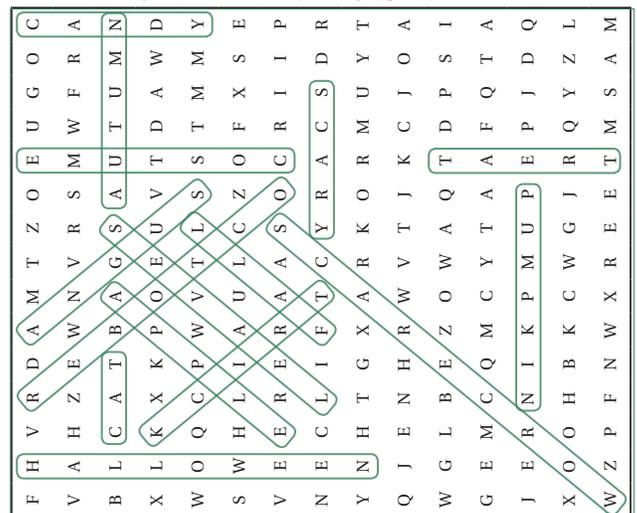
The state is already known for having more cattle than people, so it will be excellent having another 200 people there to explore the beautiful state. Montana is known for having the most registered Angus cattle in the United States. The state itself has more than 2.6 million head of beef cattle.

LEAD 2018 will be packed full of tours at some very well-known Angus ranches. LEAD 2018 will expose the juniors to the production side of the Angus breed with tours and speakers on cattle genetics. Also on the agenda is learning about one of the founding pioneers in performance testing and measuring traits that make a difference to ranchers, feeders and the industry.

This LEAD will hit home how important and advanced Angus cattle and their genetics are to the agriculture industry. Lastly, the NJAA juniors will get to experience some history of the West. I can hardly wait for next summer to roll around for this event to take place! "Angus Under the Big Sky" LEAD 2018 in Billings, Mont., is one you will not want to miss!

— *Jordyn Lynn Wagner, leadership director*

(Key to Word Search on page 9 — rotated)



# DIRECTIONS

NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

3201 Frederick Ave.

Saint Joseph, MO 64506-2997

816-383-5100 • [www.angus.org/njaa](http://www.angus.org/njaa) • [info@njaa.info](mailto:info@njaa.info)

Nonprofit Org.  
US Postage Paid  
St. Joseph, MO  
Permit No. 2017

## Important Dates and Deadlines for Juniors

### JANUARY 2018

- 11 National Western Stock Show Junior Heifer Show, Denver, Colo.

### FEBRUARY 2018

- 1 Ownership and entry deadline for the Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC) Show
- 5 Application deadline for the Events and Education summer internship
- 15 Ownership and entry deadline for the Western Regional Junior Angus Show
- 15 State Training and Angus Retreat (STAR) conference registration deadline

### MARCH 2018

- 1 Deadline for Honorary Angus Foundation and Advisor of the Year nominations
- 1 Raising the Bar (Oklahoma City, Okla.) registration deadline
- 9-11 MAJAC Show, Harrisonburg, Va.

- 22-25 State Training and Angus Retreat (STAR) Conference, Saint Joseph, Mo.

### APRIL 2018

- 12-15 Western Regional, Reno, Nev.
- 15 Ownership & entry deadline for the Atlantic National Junior Show
- 19-22 Raising the Bar, Oklahoma City, Okla.

### MAY 2018

- 1 Deadline for Gold Award applications
- 1 Outstanding Leadership Award applications due
- 1 Ownership and entry deadline for American Angus Breeder's Futurity
- 1 Ownership and entry deadline for Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show
- 1 Ownership and entry deadline Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show
- 1 CAB, NJAA and Angus

Foundation scholarship applications due

- 15 Ownership and early entry deadline for National Junior Angus Show
- 15 Entry deadline for NJAA Creative Writing, NJAA/Angus Journal Photograph, and NJAA Graphic Design Contests
- 15 Entry and recipe deadline for All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off
- 25 Deadline for NJAA Public Speaking Contest speech outlines and Career Development Contest résumés
- 25 Late entry deadline for National Junior Angus Show (online only)
- 25-27 Atlantic National Junior Angus Show, Timonium, Md.

### JUNE 2018

- 1 NJAA Board candidate information due

- 1 Deadline for submitting names of state delegates and showmanship contestants for NJAA elections

13-16 Northwest Regional Preview Junior Angus Show

14-16 Eastern Regional Junior Angus Shows

15-17 All American Breeder's Futurity

- 15 LEAD registrations due (early registration deadline)

### JULY 2018

6-13 National Junior Angus Show, Madison, Wis.

- 15 LEAD registration deadline

### AUGUST 2018

2-5 LEAD Conference, Billings, Mont.

National Junior Angus Association

