

# DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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Spring 2009

## It's Sure to be a Sweet Southern Showdown

As summer quickly approaches, Angus juniors across the country are planning the shows and events they will attend this year. If you haven't already, mark July 19-25 on your calendars and join the Georgia Junior Angus Association for a "Sweet Southern Showdown" in Perry, Ga. It is sure to be a fun-filled week full of good old southern hospitality.

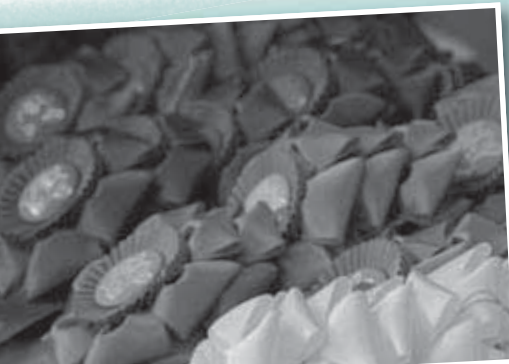
The Georgia juniors have numerous activities planned throughout the week. The highlight of the week will be a concert by the country music act Lady Antebellum during opening ceremonies on Monday evening. The group was recently named the 2009 Country Music Association (CMA) New Artist of the Year and received the 2008 Academy of Country Music (ACM) award for Top New Group.

Also, be sure to check out the contests that will be held during the week. You can find a list of all the contests and entry deadlines at [www.njaa.info/njaa\\_contests.html](http://www.njaa.info/njaa_contests.html). The mentoring program is a highlight of the week for young Angus enthusiasts who are looking for a way to meet new people and become more active. For those who are more creatively inclined, the NJAS newspaper, *The Scoop*, will also be looking for staff in the upcoming months.

As a 2009 NJAS junior co-chair for this event, I strongly encourage you to join us in July for the 2009 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). It is sure to be a memorable week. If you have any questions, you can go to [www.njas.info](http://www.njas.info),

where you will find a complete schedule of events, hotel information as well as the contact information for the executive committee.

— by Trey Davis



# Chairman's Perspective:

**T**hroughout life we individually face circumstances that are trying. These trials may test character, morals, relationships, knowledge and judgment. They may be challenging for not only yourself, but also others involved and those you are close to. Regardless of whether they are short trials or long hardships, they forever change you, remain in your memory and shape the person you become. The actions you take to handle these situations are key to finding peace with yourself and those involved. You may not be satisfied with the resolution, but knowing you learned from the circumstance and grew as an individual is most important.

Hardships are never fun to encounter; they seem to come at the worst time and take awhile to get over. They are inconvenient and sometimes upsetting, but they are something



we will never escape. In fact, we each face some type of hardship each day, whether big or small. Each of us has our own trials that we deal with, and we may be so involved in our challenges that we believe others have it easy. Truth be told, you, I and everyone else face difficulties. Each person handles these situations differently — internally, externally, physically, emotionally or psychologically, with no one way being the best.

What you learn from these situations and how you apply it to your life is important. These, regardless of how difficult they may be, are the best learning experiences. They are life's lessons that you do not learn from the textbook. The phrase "growing up is hard to do" speaks volumes. These hardships you face, and sometimes wonder "why me," are what help you in growing up.

Your family and those close to you help you mature and teach you important lessons along the way; however, there are some things you will learn only from doing them

yourself. In fact, you have to mess up a time or two before you get it right. Feelings might get hurt, relationships damaged, self-esteem knocked down; but knowing you will make it through this tough time, that God will not give you something that you cannot handle, and knowing you will better yourself because of the circumstance, will eventually allow you to understand — it wasn't as bad as you thought.

Life is hard from time to time, but there are people in your life who are there for you 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They are there to listen to you, advise you and provide a shoulder to cry on. Rely on those individuals. They want to be there for you because they love you. You are important to them and, most of all, they need you as much as you need them.

Remember, nothing is harder than what you make it, and you have to fall a few times before you can be on your own. There is nothing wrong with needing people to help you through life and its circumstances. Making mistakes is the best way to learn those difficult life lessons, so don't be scared of messing up. If we didn't make mistakes every now and then, life just wouldn't be as fun!

— by Mallory Trosper

## Meet the New Director of Junior Activities

**O**n Nov. 3, 2008, the American Angus Association® issued a press release stating that Robin Ruff was promoted to the position of director of junior activities, effective immediately. Robin was promoted from her previous position of junior activities assistant, where she worked with the previous director, James Fisher.

Robin first joined the Association in May 2007 after earning her bachelor's degree in agribusiness from Kansas State University (K-State). In her new position Robin will work closely with both the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and the American Angus Association. She will coordinate events for more than 7,000 members of the NJAA. She will help organize and produce events such as the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference and the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

Robin will also work with the staff at the American Angus Association, providing them with information regarding junior activities and helping to secure funding for future events.

The new director is certainly not new to agriculture or livestock, and

has in fact been actively involved in it almost all of her life. She grew up in Hanston, Kan., on her family's cattle operation and has competitively exhibited cattle on many levels. While attending K-State, Robin was actively involved in many collegiate organizations, including College of Agriculture Student Council, Collegiate Cattlewomen and Sigma Alpha, a professional agriculture sorority.

Robin is very excited and enthusiastic about her new responsibilities and looks forward to working with the members of the National Junior Angus Association.

Any member with questions regarding the NJAA or its programs is encouraged to contact Robin via e-mail at [rruff@angus.org](mailto:rruff@angus.org) or through the American Angus Association by phoning 816-383-5100.

— by Robert Myers



### NJAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### TERMS UP IN 2009

**MALLORY TROSPER**, Missouri, **chairperson**, [mbtrh2@mizzou.edu](mailto:mbtrh2@mizzou.edu)  
**BRANDON CREAMER**, Colorado, **vice chairman**, [creamer\\_b\\_150@hotmail.com](mailto:creamer_b_150@hotmail.com)  
**WALT STINSON**, Tennessee, **communications director**, [rwstinson21@tntech.edu](mailto:rwstinson21@tntech.edu)  
**TREY DAVIS**, Georgia, **Foundation director**, [treyhbd3@aol.com](mailto:treyhbd3@aol.com)  
**ANN BLUMER**, South Carolina, **membership director**, [blumeea@millsaps.edu](mailto:blumeea@millsaps.edu)  
**BRIDGET DRISCOLL**, Iowa, **leadership director**, [bdrisco@gmail.com](mailto:bdrisco@gmail.com)

#### TERMS UP IN 2010

**ASHLYN CARTER**, Indiana, [aecarter@purdue.edu](mailto:aecarter@purdue.edu)  
**CHRISTOPHER CASSADY**, Illinois, [ccassady@neo.tamu.edu](mailto:ccassady@neo.tamu.edu)  
**ROBERT MYERS**, Oregon, [myersro@onid.orst.edu](mailto:myersro@onid.orst.edu)  
**ANDREW ROGEN**, South Dakota, [ajrogen@jacks.sdstate.edu](mailto:ajrogen@jacks.sdstate.edu)  
**KIRBE SCHNOOR**, California, [k.schnoor@yahoo.com](mailto:k.schnoor@yahoo.com)  
**LINDSAY WAUGH**, Minnesota, [lindsay.waugh@ndsu.edu](mailto:lindsay.waugh@ndsu.edu)

## Leadership is Influence

**W**hen you think of a leader, who comes to mind? Do you think of individuals such as Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Lance Armstrong or the Jonas Brothers? These individuals are in leadership positions or have titles that make them stand out as leaders.

Leadership is often considered to be fame. We get caught up in the lives of the “rich and famous” through television, radio and Internet, often becoming convinced that these are the individuals we should look up to. In my definition, true leaders are those individuals who have influenced moments in our lives. Look around to find your true leaders as they make an impact on your life.

*You Don't Need a Title to Be a Leader*, a book I read recently, caught my eye because of the truth the title carried. The author, Mark Sanborn, writes about everyday people being leaders in their own life and the lives of others. He mentions individuals such as the Wal-Mart cashier who came up with the idea of store greeters to the inventor of the java jacket. Nobody thought these people were leaders, but they have made an impact with their ideas and inventions. He states that leadership is influence, and anyone, at any age, in any position can help shape the world around them.

Have you ever considered these individuals as leaders — the person who taught you how to ride a bike, the breeder who assisted you in purchasing your first heifer or your grandma who helped you finish that 5,000-piece puzzle? All of these individuals are leaders if they made a difference in your life. You remember the encouragement and knowledge they gave you to accomplish a goal or make a decision. Whether or not they have a title, people who lead are striving to make things better.

How and who will you choose to lead? Will you volunteer to assistant-teach a Sunday school class, participate in the Mentoring Program at the National Junior Angus Show or help your elderly neighbor cut her grass? As we approach summer I challenge you to look around you to see how you can make a difference in the people around you.

To be a leader does not require a title, and having a title does not make you a leader. Be a great leader by using focus, power and motivation to influence others to accomplish their goals and make key decisions. Part of growing up is about deciding how much influence to use, but extending an invitation to greatness is the first step of being a leader.

—by Robin R. Ruff, director of junior activities

# American Angus Auxiliary Update

## *‘Blue,’ the celebrated blue roan*

American Quarter Horse presented to the American Angus Auxiliary, sold in Denver, Colo., at the Phil Trowbridge Family & Friends Invitational Sale for \$11,000.

The many members of the Auxiliary wish to express much gratitude to L. Tucker & Vickie



Link of Tulsa, Okla., for their purchase of Blue. The Links own Kiamichi Link Ranch in Finley, Okla. Their

generous contribution to the Auxiliary's youth scholarship fund will help ensure that funds will be available to Angus youth who wish to pursue a postsecondary education.

As you are aware, Blue is more than just a horse. Blue is a very special horse. He is the culmination of efforts of many people and agencies working together as a team to promote Angus youth through the Auxiliary scholarship fund.

Blue was presented to the Auxiliary by Sheri, Jared, Brett and Alyssa Spader of Rosendale, Mo., as a tribute to the late Richard “Dick” Spader, former executive vice president of the American Angus Association®. Rich Masoner of Angus Productions Inc. (API) and his family worked to train and prepare Blue for his new home and family.

Members and friends of the Auxiliary worked together to promote Blue and what Blue stood for. We have all fallen in love with Blue. Handsome, athletic and majestic, Blue is no ordinary horse. Blue stands for people's love for Angus cattle, Angus people and Angus youth.

This project reminds us that the Angus business is about more than just black cows. It is about people. The Auxiliary is so pleased that our friend Blue is going to a fine new home at Kiamichi Link Ranch.

—by Michelle Rieff, Auxiliary President



Sheri Spader (right) and family of Rosendale, Mo., donated the Quarter Horse, “Blue,” and Rich Masoner and family, DeKalb, Mo., trained him.

# Saying Good-bye to the Old Six



## Mallory Troesper Chairman

**Age:** 22

**School:** University of Missouri

**Major:** Nursing

**Favorite thing about the NJAA:** The connections that are made between people and the endless possibilities that are made available through involvement through the NJAA.

**Favorite experience with fellow board members thus far:** At fall board meeting when we went to a

haunted house. I could not have picked any

better 11 people to go with, but never again!

**Advice to young members:** Be as involved as you desire, seek new opportunities and friendships, and use your leadership qualities in everything you do. You never know where you will go, what you will do, or who you will meet, but the NJAA will go with you in every instance.

**Favorite quote:** “What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters compared to what lies within us.” — Ralph Waldo Emerson

**What are you going to miss the most?** The luxury of traveling across the country, meeting individuals with whom I share a common bond, and the opportunities I had to interact with the juniors of the NJAA.

**What have you learned being on the board?** It takes a dynamic group of individuals, open minds, trust and imagination to create, expand and continue the excellence we have achieved.

**Favorite event:** Can I have two? National Junior Angus Show and the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference.

**Words of wisdom for all NJAA members:** Take chances; do something out of character; be who you want to be; don't let go of your dreams; and, most of all, at the end of your junior membership have no regrets!

**Future plans:** Graduate from the University of Missouri in December 2009 with a bachelor of science in nursing, then attend graduate school.



## Brandon Creamer Vice Chairman

**Age:** 21

**School:** Colorado State University

**Major:** Animal science/ag business

**Favorite thing about the NJAA:**

Networking with others who are passionate about Angus cattle.

**Favorite experience with fellow board members thus far:** Attending the St. Louis Blues hockey game during Youth Beef Industry Congress (YBIC).

**Advice to young members:** Set goals for yourself and never give up; you will eventually reach your goals.

**Favorite quote:** “Live with intention. Walk to the edge. Listen hard. Practice wellness. Play with abandon. Laugh. Choose with no regret.

Continue to learn. Appreciate your friends. Do what you love. Live as if this is all there is.” — Mary Anne Radmacher

**What are you going to miss the most?** The National Junior Angus Show and LEAD, because I enjoy seeing old friends and making new ones.

**What have you learned being on the board?** I have learned that the board members are very dedicated to the NJAA, and I have a great deal of respect for anyone who has served on the NJAA Board.

**Favorite event:** Atlantic National

**Words of wisdom for all NJAA members:** When things don't go according to plan, don't give up.

**Future plans:** To manage livestock sales and continue to raise and show Angus cattle.



## Walt Stinson Communications Director

**Age:** 22

**School:** Tennessee Tech University

**Major:** Preveterinary medicine

**Favorite thing about the NJAA:** I am always encouraged when I see the numerous scholarships and junior programs that are supported by fellow Angus breeders who truly love the junior program. Their support with both time and money for the NJAA proves that they believe in the future of the Angus breed.

**Favorite experience with fellow board members thus far:** The donkey races at the Eastern Regional in Lewisburg, W.Va., were a strange experience and a great time!

**Advice to young members:** Take advantage of the endless opportunities by getting involved immediately.

**Favorite quote:** “Why are some more successful than others? Given the same tools, the same opportunity . . . success is totally dependent on management practices, attitude and the undeniable desire to excel. Those who wish to succeed will apply the necessary discipline to, in fact, succeed.” — John Crouch, former chief executive officer (CEO) of the American Angus Association

**What are you going to miss the most?** The people. Angus breeders will continue to breed Angus cows, but the friends I have made showing cattle are irreplaceable.

**What have you learned being on the board?** Shows and conferences require an immense amount of behind-the-scenes work that is performed by a variety of individuals.

**Favorite event:** Atlantic National. At this show everyone can see the cattle without hair and enjoy an early-summer relaxed atmosphere.

**Words of wisdom for all NJAA members:** Expect too much of yourself, and then work toward what you thought was not possible — it is.

**Future plans:** I plan to attend dental school this fall at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis and then practice dentistry wherever God leads me.



**Trey Davis**  
Foundation Director

**Age:** 21  
**School:** Gainesville State College  
**Major:** Ag communications  
**Favorite thing about the NJAA:**

The people and the experiences that go along with junior involvement within the NJAA.

**Favorite experience with fellow board members thus far:** I really enjoyed being a part of the board during the NJAS in Des Moines, Iowa,

last summer. It was an awesome feeling at the end of the week driving back from Iowa knowing that I had been a part of such an awesome event.

**Advice to young members:** *Get involved!* You have to make things happen for yourself. You can't sit by and wait for opportunities to find you. There are countless opportunities within the NJAA that every junior member should take advantage of.

**Favorite quote:** "It's about the journey — mine and yours — and the lives we can touch, the legacy we can leave, and the world we can change for the better." — Tony Dungy

**What are you going to miss the most?** Getting to spend time with 11 of my best friends and all the juniors. Although I intend on being active on the Angus scene for the rest of my life, I'm afraid over the next few years I will have to focus more on a career and will not be able to attend as many functions as I have in the past.

**What have you learned being on the board?** I have learned many things, but probably the one thing I will always remember is the amount of work it takes to make things happen. I have a greater appreciation for those who came before me and will have a greater appreciation for those who will serve as NJAA board members in the future.

**Favorite event:** I have always loved the Atlantic National in Baltimore, Md. It is a large show but has a very small-town feel. It is without a doubt the event that I look most forward to each year.

**Words of wisdom for all NJAA members:** Know no limits. You can achieve anything that you set your mind to. Put God first in your life, and you will go far!

**Future plans:** My immediate career plans are uncertain, but my long-term goals are to be heavily involved in politics on a state and national level, while still being very active with our family business. I always hope to be deeply involved with the NJAA and American Angus Association. Angus cattle will always be in my life.



**Bridget Driscoll**  
Leadership Director

**Age:** 21  
**School:** Iowa State University  
**Major:** Double major in animal science and agriculture education with a communications option

**Favorite thing about the NJAA:** The people and of course the cows! We are all one family and come together for the love of the Angus breed.

**Favorite experience with fellow board members thus far:**

Every experience has been just that, an experience! Everything we have done together and gone through has been amazing and tons of fun. I must mention the new way of team building we discovered by going to a haunted house was awesome!

**Advice to young members:** Get active and get involved. Meet as many people as you can, because these are the kind of people who are going to be friends for a lifetime.

**Favorite quote:** "The will of God will never take you where the Grace of God will not protect you."

**What are you going to miss the most?** The people in this Association and my fellow board members. I've had the chance to work with 17 unique individuals and learned so much from each of them.

**What have you learned being on the board?** How to work with any type of person. I have also learned time management and more leadership skills.

**Favorite event:** National Junior Angus Show ... always has been, always will be!

**Words of wisdom for all NJAA members:** Try your best, and never let anyone tell you that you can't do something. You are capable of doing whatever you put your mind to. Meet as many people as possible and make long-lasting friendships.

**Future plans:** Graduate from Iowa State University in May. After I graduate I'm planning on taking a semester off from school to work. I will then apply to graduate school and hope that I can get in and expand my education on the beef industry.



**Ann Blumer**  
Membership Director

**Age:** 22  
**School:** Millsaps College  
**Major:** Business administration; minor in psychology

**Favorite thing about the NJAA:** The amazing people and opportunities it provides for "family vacations."

**Favorite experience with fellow board members thus far:** The van rides really enable us to get to know one another and can be a lot of fun.

**Advice to young members:** Take advantage of all the opportunities that you can. Opportunities are not missed, they are simply taken by someone else.

**Favorite quote:** "We are all travelers in the wilderness of this world, and the best that we can find in our travels is an honest friend." — Robert Louis Stevenson

**What are you going to miss the most?** The traveling to parts of the country that I might not have had the opportunity to go to if not for the Association and Angus Foundation.

**What have you learned being on the board?** I have learned that there are many different types of people with many different personalities and that it takes all of those different points of view and opinions to make an organization successful. You just have to be open-minded and willing to learn and listen.

**Favorite event:** National Junior Angus Show

**Words of wisdom for all NJAA members:** Don't get caught up in what color ribbon you have when you are coming out of the ring, but see all the smiling faces and support you have from family and friends. Know that people will forget what place you won, but they will never forget the character and type of friend you were.

**Future plans:** I am hoping to obtain my master's in business administration (MBA) from Millsaps Else School of Management and then from there go on into the business world and be a success in the industry that I find myself working in.

— by Walt Stinson

# Foundation Heifer

The 2009 Angus Foundation heifer, Limestone Rita T754, sold Jan. 15 at the 2009 National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo. The female brought \$92,500 and was generously purchased by Canyon Creek Ranch in Cody, Wyo.

Ron and Myki Simek, owners of Canyon Creek, were repeat buyers of the Foundation Heifer package. Their charitable purchase and continued support has greatly affected the juniors of the Angus industry and is greatly appreciated.

Trey Davis, Foundation director of the NJAA Board, was the team leader for this rewarding fundraiser with the support of Milford Jenkins, president of the Angus Foundation. We strongly encourage you to send thank-you letters to Ron and Myki for their continued support of Angus youth and the NJAA.

Ron & Myki Simek; 1728 South Fork Rd.; Cody, WY 82414

—by *Ashlyn Carter*



## Angus Horoscopes

### Capricorn

*December 22-January 19*

The stars give you superhuman willpower! The workout resolution you set as your New Year's goal ... will stick. So get up off the couch, put the potato chips down and go breed some cows. Your mission: Treat yourself before going out to the barn. The economy is tough, but with the new moon in your house of cash, it's okay to spend money on a new blower!

### Aquarius

*January 20-February 18*

With all the planets piling up in your houses of love, money and a great show string, your luck runs over. Still, that love interest of yours at the shows is questioning your feelings. Single: Go for it. Attached: Trust your better judgment. Your mission: Rise above all the good luck in your life and smile, say hi!

### Pisces

*February 19-March 20*

The National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo., is over, but admit it, you love hearing all the juicy events that took place. However, now it's time to move on with your life. With summer show season approaching, you should be out in the barn getting your calves ready. Single: Someone from the barn has a secret crush on you! Attached: Things could turn for the worse; better stick to the simple cow stuff!

### Aries

*March 21-April 19*

You usually love to learn new tricks and trades of the business, but this month take a time out. Take a break from the rinsing, brushing and especially the weather. You deserve a day off! The planets collide, so your mission is to dish wisely, sharing a few discreet details about your secrets with a close bud.

### Taurus

*April 20-May 20*

So this is your year! Welcome 2009! It's your calving year and everything is looking up for you. But be prepared. While everything seems to be going great a love interest will arouse. Don't let it take the focus off your showmanship skills. Nothing is more distracting than that person on the outside of the ring.

### Gemini

*May 21-June 20*

You have been arguing a lot with that one girl in your barn. Let it go, she's just a cow! If you need a stress reliever go for a run to the feed store. Pick up the *Angus Journal* and have quiet time to yourself. Your mission: Usually your head leads the way, but when a life-altering opportunity comes about, you will have to follow your heart just like you do when sorting through those cows of yours.

### Cancer

*June 21-July 22*

You will have tons of phone calls this month. School friends and Angus friends will want to catch up. While you're busy with school and talking on the phone remember you have duties. Yes, those duties are the pretty black ladies outside your window. Don't get too caught up in the chatting! Your mission: Get excited because the quality time you will spend in the barn will pay off.

### Leo

*July 23-August 22*

This is a great month for you. Lots of good things are happening. The only problem is they are piling on top of each other. It's like one thing after another for you. Relax and realize. Your mission: Pace yourself. Even someone with your spontaneity will get cranky if you let all your comforting old habits go. Talk to your parents about investing more into your cow production; it could be a good conversation.

### Virgo

*August 23-September 22*

Great news this month: Life is great! The cows are looking good, and you're ready for your next show. School is hard, but you are enjoying it. New to the Angus Association, great. You're having your doubts but a board member will contact you and will get you all pumped up on the fabulous opportunities. Nothing's better than an Angus cow and Angus friend. Welcome to the business breed!

### Libra

*September 23-October 22*

You will be raking in extra money this month. Things are looking good, but don't spend too much in one place. Learn to save because in the end it will be a big help for a big purchase you might want to make. Spend some more time with the family. Between school and the barn, you're only making time for yourself, show a little more love!

### Scorpio

*October 23-November 21*

The emotional full moon makes even minor irritations cause you to become very irritated. Don't let friends, cows or your parents be the victims. Walk outside and smell the fresh air. If it's cold, then look out the window and realize everything is OK! Your mission: Use your famed self control to resist striking out. Biting your tongue for a few weeks right now is the best thing. Before you know it, you will be packing up to go to a show. So don't make a mess of things; that way there is nothing to pick up later.

### Sagittarius

*November 22-December 21*

You have been feeling unfulfilled lately, but that's over now. Finally, satisfaction! Enjoy it. Even the simple pleasures in life like good grades, a great show and some happy-go-lucky cows are all on your side! Cozy up inside, turn on the TV and have some cereal! Things are working themselves out!

—by *Kirbe Schnoor*

# Compassion & Generosity from a Young Lady in Washington

**I**n these times of a troubled economy one junior still knows how to share, contribute and love. Twelve-year-old Shelby Burrus is from Puyallup, Wash. She has been showing cattle for five years now and is a member of the Washington Junior Angus Association.

For the past two years Shelby has collected the money that she receives for her birthday and purchased turkeys to donate to local food banks. This amazing endeavor began when Shelby decided to redecorate her room. After moving everything out of her room to paint she realized just how much stuff she really had. Her 11th birthday/Halloween party was around the corner, and she knew that she most likely did not need more stuff to add to it.

Once she saw how much stuff she had, she and her mom, Carrie, sat down to brainstorm what other opportunities they could pursue instead of gifts. They decided to do things a little differently than the typical party for a 10-year-old. Shelby and her mom decided to ask guests who were going to attend the party to bring a gift card for the local grocery store, instead of a typical birthday present, so that a donation could be made to the local food bank.

After the party ended and the gift cards had been collected, Shelby realized that she had received enough money to be able to donate 25 turkeys. Shelby, her mom and her friends from school took the turkeys and carried them in a huge parade all the way from the school to the All Saints Parish Food Bank in Puyallup, Wash.

The great feeling of accomplishment and helpfulness led Shelby to start a tradition. This year, at Shelby's party for her 12th birthday, she again asked her guests to donate the gift cards. Her friends graciously gave close to \$300 worth of gift cards to put

toward her wonderful cause. With these donations she was able to completely fill the All Saints Parish Food Bank as well as donate to the Fife/Milton Food Bank and the Fish

Food Bank. Altogether they amazingly donated 46 turkeys. In order for so many turkeys to be bought and delivered, Shelby and her family had to spread the trips out over three weeks. Shelby said, "Everyone had their turkeys in time for Thanksgiving."

Yet in true Angus fashion, Shelby and her family did say they had beef on their Thanksgiving table.

This compassionate young girl is exactly what this Association needs and promotes. Shelby's passion and kindness has changed,

influenced and helped so many people. This is a great reminder of how much influence just one person can have. Imagine if more of us were as selfless and giving as this great young lady of the Washington Junior Angus Association. Through her contributions she has influenced another brother and sister in the Association. They are now raising a cow that will be given to a food bank when the time comes.

This story is one of true kindness, true compassion and true generosity. Shelby is a great young asset and influence to this association. We could not ask for better representatives of this great junior association than what we have now.

A quote on one of Shelby's sweatshirts pretty much sums her up, says her mom: "Even if you get bucked, kicked or stomped — Never give up. Cowgirl Tough."

— by Ann Blumer

**In order for so many turkeys to be bought and delivered, Shelby and her family had to spread the trips out over three weeks. Shelby said, "Everyone had their turkeys in time for Thanksgiving."**



Shelby Burrus (center) is pictured with friends, Emmy McFadden and Patrick Finigan, who helped her unload turkeys.

# Meet: Miss American Angus 2009

**O**nce again, the time of year has come to meet the new Miss American Angus. At the 2008 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky., Miss Katie Gazda, Athens, Ga., was crowned the 2009 Miss American Angus. Katie is the daughter of David and Carolyn Gazda and has a 16-year-old sister, Taylor. She will travel the country in the next year to represent the American Angus Association and the Angus breed. Here are some fun facts about Katie to help you get to know her a little better.

**What is your favorite color?**

I love any shade of blue or green and, of course, red and black.

**What is your favorite food?**

Macaroni and cheese, sweet tea and strawberry cheesecake.

**Where do you attend school and what major are you pursuing?**

I attend the University of Georgia in Athens (UGA) where I'm majoring in agricultural communications.

**What do you enjoy doing during your free time?**

At UGA, I am involved in the Block & Bridle Club and my sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha. Outside of school and cattle shows, I love cooking, Lifetime movies, photography and college football.

**What are your plans upon finishing school?**

I hope to graduate from Georgia with my bachelor's degree and then pursue a master's degree in agricultural communications at Oklahoma State University. After that I hope to work in the Angus industry, and I've always wanted to work for the *Angus Journal*.

**What do you like most so far about being Miss American Angus?**

I'm really enjoying all of the traveling that I am doing. Being from Georgia, I am



usually not able to attend a lot of the bigger shows like Denver and Reno, but as Miss American Angus, I am able to. Also, I have enjoyed meeting and making connections with Angus enthusiasts from across the country!

**What is your favorite Angus memory, excluding becoming Miss American Angus?**

My favorite Angus memory is from my first LEAD Conference in Boise, Idaho, in 2005. I was the only girl to attend

from Georgia, so right off the bat I had to step outside my comfort zone and make new friends. I roomed with Kara Wilson, and now she's one of my best friends. I also thoroughly enjoyed my first experience whitewater rafting.

— by *Lindsay Waugh*

## More Than Just Politics

On Jan. 20, 2009, Barack Obama was written into history books as the 44th President of the United States of America. As President, he focuses on many issues, such as taxes, international trade, terrorism, the economy and even agriculture.

These political topics often seem distant to young people as they feel politics is boring and intended for adults in the business world, but many young people should realize that politics and government regulations shape their daily lives, especially for those involved in agriculture.

Each member of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) plays a role in the beef industry. Whether a junior member owns one Angus show heifer or a pasture full of Angus cows, the youth is involved in agribusiness and affected by government agencies like the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). These agencies, which are under the control of the President, create regulations that can be helpful or very

detrimental to farmers and ranchers.

Here are a few of the topics regulated by the USDA under the Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack: harvest facilities, animal rights, crop subsidies, water rights, smells and food safety. Of course, this list may seem foreign to a young junior Angus member with a show heifer, but as an Angus breeder and future member of the American Angus Association, agriculture regulations will influence the bottom line.

NJAA members should understand the principles of political discussions, especially when the talk involves agriculture. With homes and subdivisions popping up all over farm country, the general public and politicians will continue to play a bigger role in the daily lives of farmers and ranchers.

— by *Walt Stinson*



# Wes Tiemann Joins Regional Manager Team

**The American Angus Association's**

regional manager team recently acquired Wes Tiemann to serve Region 2, which consists of Iowa and Missouri. Wes fills the vacant position left by Don Laughlin after he moved to the Angus headquarters to serve as director of member services. Wes comes to the Angus association from the American Simmental Association, where he served as a regional manager covering the south-central United States.

Wes grew up on a livestock farm in Martinsburg, Mo., where he was active in 4-H and FFA. He went to Fort Scott Community



College to participate in livestock judging and transferred to Kansas State University, where he was also a member of the livestock judging team and obtained an animal science degree. While in school, Wes had the opportunity to work on several large seedstock and commercial ranches, which he says provided him with an understanding of the coordination between breeders and customers.

Wes shared that he was a bit concerned about applying for a position with such a powerful organization, but it was a tremendous opportunity to become a member of the beef industry's leading breed. He also saw this as a chance to focus on a smaller region as

opposed to the seven states he had before. Wes is looking forward to working in a region rooted in Angus genetics and previously served by Don Laughlin. As Wes begins the new year, he, like most cattlemen, is looking forward to seeing what the cattle market has in store.

On a personal note, the Association's newest regional manager enjoys team roping and all types of hunting. When time allows he also enjoys playing the guitar and reading a good cowboy book. Of course, Tiemann's favorite food is a *Certified Angus Beef*<sup>®</sup> steak.

Wes shares a quote that he lives by:

"It is not about right vs. left, but about right vs. wrong." — AM Radio Host

— by Brandon Creamer

## 2009 LEAD Conference:

# 'The Golden Gate to Opportunity'

**In 2008, Angus juniors "Took it to the Top" at the Leaders Engaged** in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference in Billings, Mont. The conference brought together 215 youth and advisors from 33 states and Canada. This year, juniors, don't miss the opportunity to travel to sunny San Francisco, Calif., for the 2009 LEAD conference! "The Golden Gate to Opportunity" will be Aug. 6-9.

LEAD is a great chance for juniors to learn about setting goals for themselves and their state associations, as well as developing techniques to accomplish these goals. Juniors and advisors get the opportunity to get together with members of different associations to share different ideas, plans

and goals that will help their associations grow. LEAD conference attendees are able to take back what they learn to their states and show others that they have grown as individuals.

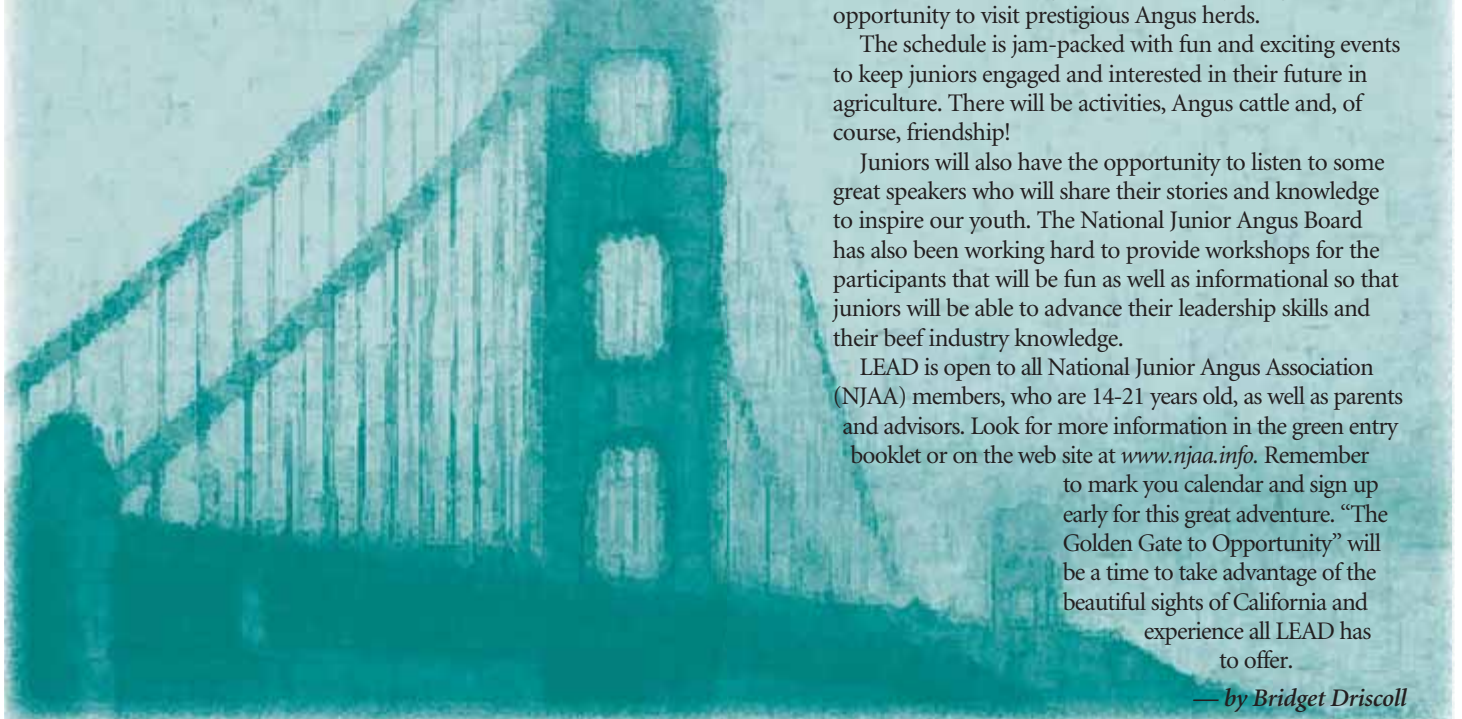
This year, LEAD participants will have the opportunity to travel to California and visit many amazing sites. California is the No. 1 agricultural state in the United States, and attendees will be able to indulge in the state's variety. Juniors will not only get to experience the sites of San Francisco and agriculture, but they will get the opportunity to visit prestigious Angus herds.

The schedule is jam-packed with fun and exciting events to keep juniors engaged and interested in their future in agriculture. There will be activities, Angus cattle and, of course, friendship!

Juniors will also have the opportunity to listen to some great speakers who will share their stories and knowledge to inspire our youth. The National Junior Angus Board has also been working hard to provide workshops for the participants that will be fun as well as informational so that juniors will be able to advance their leadership skills and their beef industry knowledge.

LEAD is open to all National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members, who are 14-21 years old, as well as parents and advisors. Look for more information in the green entry booklet or on the web site at [www.njaa.info](http://www.njaa.info). Remember to mark you calendar and sign up early for this great adventure. "The Golden Gate to Opportunity" will be a time to take advantage of the beautiful sights of California and experience all LEAD has to offer.

— by Bridget Driscoll



## Spotlight on a State Association

### The Nebraska Junior Angus Association

**T**he Nebraska Junior Angus Association is not just another aisle at the National Junior Angus Show. During a recent interview with state advisor Jennifer Hoffschneider, I asked a few questions about the Nebraska Junior Angus Association's past successes and future plans. Nebraska will play a key role in 2010 by co-hosting the NJAS in Denver, Colo. Here is a preview of what the Nebraska Junior Angus Association has to offer.

**What is a successful fundraising activity your state currently uses?**

The Nebraska Junior Angus Association uses semen donated by breeders and semen companies for auction at the annual meeting. Each year the auction earns between \$2,500 and \$3,500.

**What is the most challenging part of planning the 2010 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS)?**

The large scale makes it hard to get juniors from across the state involved and informed about all of the progress.

**How often does the Nebraska Junior Angus Association conduct meetings?**

We have three meetings a year — at the Nebraska State Fair,

Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic and the Nebraska Field Day.

**What makes your state's association unique?**

Nebraska serves ice cream at the NJAS after opening ceremonies and is helping to co-host the 2010 NJAS in Denver, Colo.

**Why should juniors want to be members of the Nebraska Junior Angus Association?**

Currently as state advisor and as a former NJAA member, I made many great friends through our state association. My kids, too, are meeting a lot of great people and friends. Our state association gives the members a common bond.

**What projects do the Nebraska juniors do to keep in touch and meet each other?**

Nebraska gets a block of rooms at the NJAS. At the state show, Nebraska has mixers and games for kids including a team fitting contest. Also this year, Nebraska Junior Angus Association President Jess Clowser began a Facebook group to help juniors communicate more easily.

— by Andrew Rogen



## Sexed Semen in the Beef Industry

**T**oday, many of the progressive seedstock operations utilize an advanced type of artificial insemination protocol, which allows producers to utilize some of the most dominant genetics across the globe. Today's technologies are more sophisticated than previous techniques, and scientists have now developed a way to obtain calves of the desired gender. Sexed semen is an innovation of the future and is a true driving force for top-end profitability.

It is scientifically proven that each sperm cell within a unit of semen has the capability of carrying either an X (female) or a Y (male) chromosome. In order to create gender-specific semen straws that contain either the X or Y chromosome, the chromosomes must be identified and separated. The individual collection is first diluted and stained with a fluorescent dye. The sample is then forced through an instrument called the flow

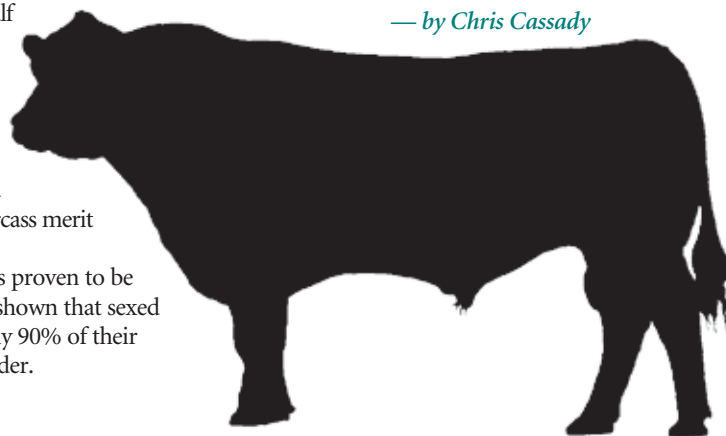
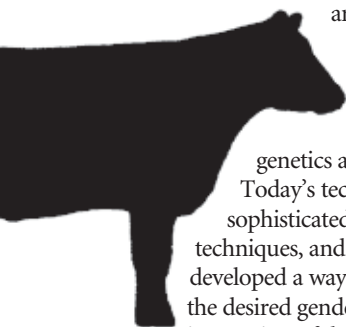
cytometer and is pushed through the system at an extremely fast rate and under high pressure. As the sperm cells pass through the internal laser beam, each individual cell glows due to the stains. The X chromosome typically glows more than the Y chromosome solely because it is larger. Therefore, the two different chromosomes are easily identified, separated and collected for use.

Why would one use sexed semen? Each cattle producer has his or her own production goals. A commercial producer may want to use female sexed semen on first-calf heifers for increased calving ease, as well as to generate more replacements to send back into production. A terminal breeding system may desire males for increased feeding efficiency as well as carcass merit for feedlots.

The use of sexed semen has proven to be highly effective. Studies have shown that sexed semen users have calved nearly 90% of their calf crop with the desired gender.

There is no question that sex-sorted sperm for gender selection is now a reality. Although the sorting process can be time-consuming and individual units are more expensive, the technology could be a potential benchmark for top-end beef cattle production. Producers are able to select for the gender that best upholds the goal of their respective operations and strive toward maximizing their bottom lines. Sexed semen is an extremely versatile tool and could change the way we breed cattle for the rest of our careers.

— by Chris Cassidy





Lindsay Waugh

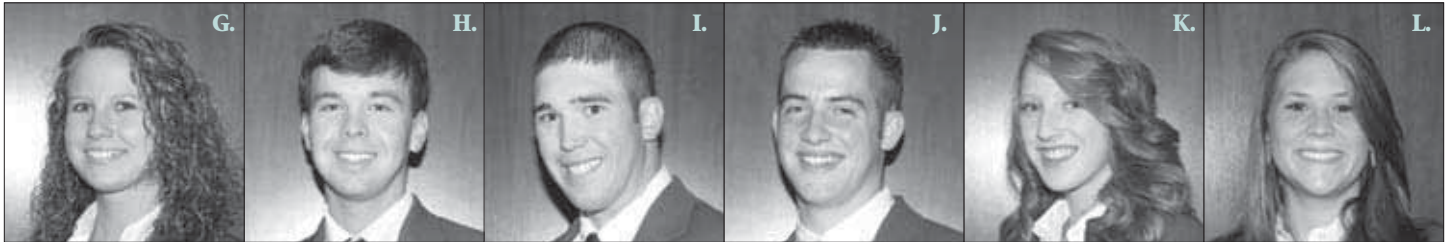
Mallory Trospier

Walt Stinson

Kirbe Schnoor

Andrew Rogen

Robert Myers



Bridget Driscoll

Trey Davis

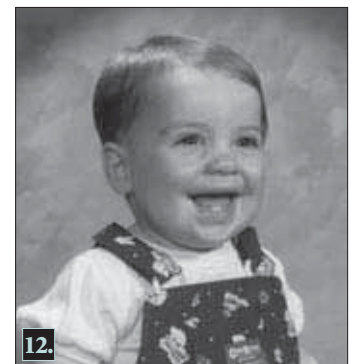
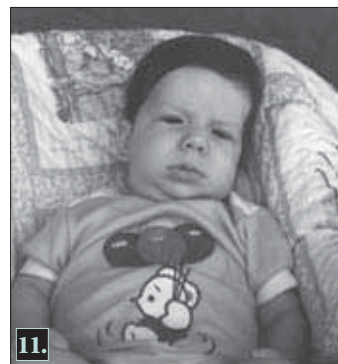
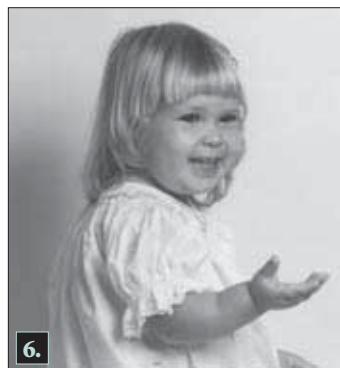
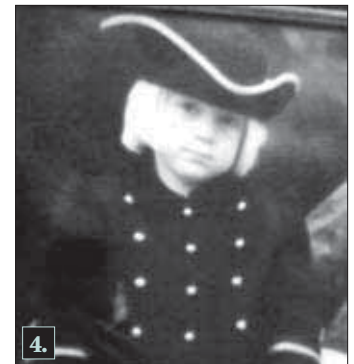
Brandon Creamer

Christopher Cassidy

Ashlyn Carter

Ann Blumer

**Match your NJAA Director to his/her childhood picture.**



# DIRECTIONS

**NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION**

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Saint Joseph, MO 64506-2997

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

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St. Joseph, MO  
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## Important Dates and Deadlines for Juniors

### MARCH 2009

27-29 National Jr. Angus Ass'n  
(NJAA) Board Meeting

### APRIL 2009

3-5 Raising the Bar, Nashville, Tenn.

15 Ownership & entry deadline,  
Atlantic National Jr. Angus  
Show

24-25 Western Regional Jr. Angus  
Show, Reno, Nev.

25 Raising the Bar, Reno, Nev.

### MAY 2009

1 Gold Award applications due

1 Outstanding Leadership Award  
applications due

1 Ownership & entry deadline,  
Northwest Regional Preview Jr.  
Angus Show

1 Ownership & entry deadline,  
Central Regional Preview Jr.  
Angus Show

1 Certified Angus Beef LLC  
(CAB)/NJAA scholarship  
applications due

1 Angus Foundation scholarship  
applications due

15 Ownership & entry deadline for  
the Eastern Regional Jr. Angus  
Show

15-17 Raising the Bar, Philadelphia,  
Pa.

22-24 Atlantic National Jr. Angus  
Show, Timonium, Md.

### JUNE 2009

1 Ownership & entry deadline,  
National Jr. Angus Show (NJAS)

1 Entry deadline, NJAA creative  
writing, NJAA/Angus Journal®  
photography, and NJAA graphic  
design contests

1 Entry & recipe deadline, All-  
American *Certified Angus Beef*®  
(CAB®) Cook-Off

1 Ownership deadline, All-  
American Angus Breeders'  
Futurity Jr. Angus Show

10 Deadline for NJAA public  
speaking contest speech outlines

15 Deadline for submitting names  
of state candidates and delegates  
for NJAA elections

15 LEAD registrations due (early  
registration deadline)

17-20 Central Regional Preview Jr.  
Angus Show, Springfield, Mo.

18-20 Northwest Regional Preview Jr.  
Angus Show, Filer, Idaho

20 Entry deadline, All-American  
Angus Breeders' Futurity Jr.  
Angus Show

25-27 Eastern Regional, Columbus,  
Ohio

### JULY 2009

19-25 NJAS, Perry, Ga.

30-31 All-American Angus Breeders'  
Futurity Jr. Preview Show,  
Louisville, Ky.

### AUGUST 2009

1-2 All-American Breeders' Futurity  
Jr. Preview Show, Louisville, Ky.

6-9 LEAD Conference, San  
Francisco, Calif.

### 2010 DATES & SITES

July 11-17 NJAS, Denver, Colo.

May 27-30 Atlantic National,  
Timonium, Md.

June 23-27 Eastern Regional,  
Bloomington, Ill.

June 25-27 Northwest Regional  
Preview, Prineville, Ore.

July 29-Aug.1 All-American Angus  
Breeders' Futurity Jr.  
Preview Show,  
Louisville, Ky.

TBA Western Regional,  
Reno, Nev.