

DIRECTIONS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL JUNIOR ANGUS ASSOCIATION

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Spring 2018

Celebrating 50 years



National Junior Angus Show

The hum of the fans, the smell of the shavings, the mid-summer heat — three things that Angus juniors from all over the country know all too well. The National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) is an event unlike any other. This year, NJAS celebrates 50 years of Living the Dream in Madison, Wis.

In 1969, the first junior national show was hosted in Columbia, Mo., with 103 head exhibited. Since then, it has traveled to 21 other locations. The NJAS has gained fame as one of the greatest cattle events of the year. With 20 separate contests, there are multiple ways for juniors to get involved beyond the showing. It is “more than business, and way more than winning,” says

Nate Briggs, a past junior. “Junior nationals is networking, career development and, most importantly, the highlight of every summer.”

For many juniors, junior nationals is an opportunity to share their passion with both friends and family alike. “Not only does junior nationals provide me with the opportunity to fuel my passion and exhibit cattle in the showing, but I also get to participate in contests and activities that help me continue to develop as an individual,” says junior member and Illinois Junior Angus Association President Sierra Day.

Anyone watching along the sideline at the ring can attest to the quality of cattle that step through the ring.

Angus juniors have set a standard of excellence unachieved by any other breed. That achievement isn't accomplished without hard work. Even so, junior nationals “means so much more than showing cattle,” said junior Corrie Falluer. “I get to meet new people and reconnect with old friends from all around the country.” Falluer first began attending junior nationals in 2010 with her older sisters. Like many other Angus families, junior nationals is a family affair.

The 50th anniversary means more than just 50 years of showing. It is 50 years of memories, passion, competition and most, importantly, the Angus family.

— Hayley DeHaan, director

Chairman's Perspective:

Take a Chance

Have you ever noticed how it seems you always grab the same comb every time you go to the barn? It may be missing a few teeth, have a loose screw or the plastic may be cracked, but if you are like me, you always grab the same one. Maybe it's the familiarity, the ease you can work hair with it or a family tradition, and you have never considered using a different one. Trust me, this is how I was until one junior national several years ago.

All the exhibitors received awesome exhibitor gifts, and one of the gifts was a new style of comb that had just been released. I looked it over and thought it looked cool, and I casually threw it in the showbox when I got back to the stalls.



Madison Butler

Later in the week a friend came up to me and asked if I had used the new comb. I said no, and my friend went on to tell me how great the new comb was and how awesome it worked her heifer's hair. This caused me to wonder why was I so reluctant to try this new comb. It didn't cost me anything, so why didn't I give it a whirl?

Sometimes we get stuck in our ways, or we are afraid to try something new. Stepping outside of your comfort zone can be scary. There is a chance you may mess up or even fail, but there is also a chance you may succeed or find a better way to complete a task. When you step outside of your box, you gain new skills, meet new people and acquire new knowledge.

The National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) provides several opportunities to try something new. Running for an office in your state junior association can teach you important leadership and life skills. Competing in the public speaking contest at the NJAS not only teaches you how to speak in front of large groups of people, but also gives you more self-confidence. Attending a leadership conference teaches you more about the livestock industry and allows you to meet people from across the United States.

The new comb I tried became one of my favorites, and since then I've tried other new combs, as well. I realized I used the same comb because it's the way my uncle taught me and the way his father had taught him. I had the mentality if it had always worked, why did I need to try something new? Looking back, I'm glad my friend encouraged me to step outside of my comfort zone. I challenge you to pick up a new "comb" and give it a try.

— *Madison Butler, chairman*

Posters, Auctioneering, New Contests, Oh My!

'Im at \$500, now I want \$550, \$550, bid on \$550, I'm at \$500 would you go \$550, \$550 ... SOLD!"

This summer, at the National Junior Angus Show in Madison, Wis., July 7-13, 2018, all young aspiring auctioneering juniors and any juniors that are looking to try something new and exciting are encouraged to participate in the new auctioneering contest. This new contest gives juniors the chance to practice their auctioneer's chant and discover what it's like to be on the auction block.

Contestants will be able to expand their leadership skills on public speaking, interact in a professional setting and think on their feet. This contest is open to all junior, intermediate and senior contestants. Participants will be divided into their own age division and they will have the chance to auction off the designated lots for their division.

In the junior division, contestants will be selling two lots, the intermediate division will be responsible for selling three lots,

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TERMS UP IN 2018

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and the senior division will be selling five lots. With assistance from the ringmen, participants will be put in the spotlight and in charge of their own auction block.

Attention all Angus juniors ages 8-13! We have revamped the poster contest at the NJAS. The poster contest will now be a Beef Science Poster Contest. Junior age division participants now have the opportunity to research and present a poster addressing any issue regarding health and welfare of beef cattle.

This is an educational, research-based contest, and junior contestants will need to choose a veterinary-science- or animal-science-based topic that relates to beef cattle production. Juniors will then research and create a poster describing the topic, background and conclusion for their selected beef science topic.



The leadership skills and knowledge gained will help Angus juniors throughout their NJAA career. The contestants of this contest will create a poster prior to the NJAS and have a 2-3 minute interview with a judge describing their poster and their research at the NJAS. All posters will be displayed throughout the show.

This is just a peek at two of the many contests available at the NJAS. The 2018 NJAS will provide learning opportunities for all NJAA members embracing all aspects of beef cattle production — from the crowd-pleasing All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off contest to the cattle judging contest to the detail-oriented creative writing contest. Don't sit on the sideline; get involved. There is something at the NJAS for every Angus junior.

— *Michaela Clowser, membership director*

Chronicles of the Coordinators

Step out of your comfort zone.

In the "Chairman's Perspective," Madison encouraged everyone to take a chance on a "new comb," to try something new and step out of your comfort zone. Through various programs and events, the National Junior Angus Association has something to offer for everyone's interests.

When the Junior Activities Department was started in 1956, its purpose was to encourage young people to become involved. Today, while also still encouraging involvement, our purpose has evolved to helping junior members develop valuable life skills and build character. The NJAA has opportunities that will enable you to try new things, see new places and meet new people.

The National Junior Angus Show is more than exhibiting an Angus steer or heifer. More than 20 different contests take place during the week. Have you thought about trying a contest that interests you? Photography, Team Sales, Public Speaking, Cattle Judging, Creative Writing and the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®)

Cook-Off are just a few of the contests available for you to participate in at the NJAS. These life-skills contests show participants' responsibility, while building communication and leadership skills.

The Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference is designed to help shape the next generation of Angus leaders through enhancing both professional development and leadership skills,

while exposing participants to different types of agriculture throughout the country.

The Raising the Bar conference was designed to build stronger leaders within state associations, create regional

relationships all while preparing junior members for the future by showcasing a land-grant university.

The State Training and Angus Retreat (STAR) conference was recently designed to strengthen communications between the state and national associations while creating networking opportunities and providing state junior officer and advisor growth.

The Angus Ambassador Program was designed to allow an outstanding junior to represent the NJAA, as well as the American Angus Association at major beef industry conferences and events throughout the United States and Canada.

The Outstanding Leadership Award recognizes one outstanding NJAA member each year. The award is based upon the leadership exhibited by the nominee not only with their Angus involvement, but also within their state and community.

If you can't get involved at the national level, or attend the various conferences throughout the year, becoming a leader in your state junior association might be right for you. Running for your state officer team, or participating in fundraisers, state events, field days and/or state previews are all great ways to network within your state. We encourage you to contact your advisor and find all the ways you can get involved!

Throughout the country, there are state, regional and local junior Angus associations that play a vital role in the NJAA's core purpose. So don't be afraid to try a "different comb."

— *Caitlyn Brandt and Bailey Palmer, events coordinators*



Bailey Palmer



Caitlyn Brandt

Leadership Role: Coaching

When you think of a great leader, who do you think of? For example, Nick Saban, Dabo Swinney, Chip Kelly, Bill Belichick and, one of my favorites,

Mike Gundy (go Pokes!) come to my mind. What do each of the people have in common? They are the coaches. Each of these individuals is the leader of their team. They are the ones who stand by their team on the good days, along with the bad. They are responsible for their team's knowledge, understanding and overall success. Coaches lead by example and are great role models to those they coach and others around them.

Who is your favorite coach — your teacher, sports coach, parent, grandparent or maybe it's even your sibling?

Three of my most influential coaches in life are God, my collegiate livestock judging coach, Taylor Frank; and my mom, Cara Gerken. I was able to sit down with both Taylor and my mom to gain perspective on what it means to be a great leader and coach.

Cara was the meat judging coach at Oklahoma State University from 1990-1993, Colorado State University from 1993-1994, and worked for the United States Department of Agriculture from 1994-2005. Taylor was a member of Butler Community College's 2012-2013 livestock judging team and is currently the head coach.

Who was your most influential coach?

Cara: I have had many important coaches that have gotten me to where I am at this point in my life. Some of them are Jason Apple, Gordon Davis and Glen Dolezal.

Taylor: It's hard to nail down who the more influential coach was throughout my judging career, but I can say that I wouldn't trade my coaches, Chris Mullinix and Dr. Rathmann, for anyone. Their passion



for livestock and selfless roles in teaching students gave me great examples to follow.

What are some of the qualities you try to portray as a coach?

Cara: When you are the coach you have to be approachable. If you aren't then the students have a difficult time learning. One of the most important things is to trust yourself. Most of the time your gut is right.

Taylor: More than anything, I want kids that have been coached under me to know the value of hard work and dedication towards something, but never lose focus of humility and character. Contest wins will never overshadow the way you represent yourself and your program. I've tried to cultivate real relationships with each kid and have fun on trips to make the learning environment enjoyable.

What made you decide to be a coach? Had you always wanted to coach?

Cara: The thought of igniting the passion in more fellow "meat heads" was thrilling. After I got into college and started to become involved, I found myself on the Kansas State University meat judging team. I had always liked it and decided to continue my knowledge.

Taylor: I've always looked up to the people that coached me as true role models. When opportunities opened up, the influence of these role models made me even more eager to give back to a program that has given me so much.

What does a day in "the office" look like?

Cara: While I was in graduate school and coaching fully, I put in several hours. Many days it was a balancing act between

my personal classes, research and practice. However, I would not trade a single moment of those long hours and connections that I had the opportunity to make.

Taylor: A day in my office involves looking at quality livestock from the most hardworking and humble industry leaders. We're in a competitive environment and always on the road.

What do you think was the most valuable lesson you learned from your teams?

Cara: Before I began coaching, my mentors always told me how much they learned from their students. Some of the most valuable lessons I learned were that you can't be successful as a team when you focus only on yourself. Also, I was amazed to see how much the teammates encouraged each other.

Taylor: Regardless of the outcome of a contest, it is important to stay positive and continue to work harder than before. You can't change what has already happened. When you don't win, you learn.

Another great aspect about being the coach is furthering your own knowledge. I have been amazed by the amount I have learned from my coach and my teammates. No matter what leadership role you decide to pursue, having the ability to learn from teachers, coaches and peers will get you further in the long run. There is a world full of opportunities just waiting for you. If you have a passion for helping others learn and learn more yourself, maybe coaching is a path for you!

—Sydnee Gerken, director



Dan and Patricia Vergith of Lylester Ranch, Martell, Neb., bought the Angus Foundation Heifer Package featuring Vintage Blackbird 7184 for \$215,000 in a packed Stadium Arena.



Denver in Review: Foundation Female Frenzy

Under the bright lights of the Stadium Arena on the Hill in Denver, the Angus Foundation had a historic evening on Jan. 10. The main attraction this year, Vintage Blackbird 7184, gained so many friends throughout the week at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), and it showed through on that Wednesday evening. When auctioneer Joe Goggins dropped the final gavel during the sale, the package commanded the third-highest price ever of \$215,000 going to Mr. Dan and Mrs. Patricia Vergith of Lylester Ranch in Nebraska. After factoring in the additional \$63,000 raised from the five confirmed heifer pregnancies that were generously donated, the total event raised \$278,000 in unrestricted funds for the Angus Foundation!

The Angus Foundation plays a monumental role in funding so many events for the NJAA. From LEAD conference each year to the multitude of scholarships that are given out at the NJAS annually, the Foundation is there with the financial contributions for each of those items. Everything would not be made possible without so many generous Angus breeders donating to this cause they believe in. If you ever get the chance, please say thank you to Mr. Milford Jenkins for all he does for the NJAA!

— Corbin Cowles, Foundation director



Angus Ambassador Highlight



The American Angus Ambassador provides an opportunity for one NJAA junior each year to represent the Angus breed at industry events across the country and internationally. The 2018 Angus Ambassador is Sydni Lienemann of Princeton, Neb. Sydni is currently a sophomore at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln

studying agricultural economics and animal science with minors in entrepreneurship and beef industry scholars.

Sydni says she was inspired to run for the position in part to give back to the Association, but also for the opportunity to travel and meet people who share her same passion for Angus cattle and those with differing backgrounds, perspectives and opinions. One thing that makes the Angus Ambassador position so unique is the flexibility it offers each winner to make the position their own. Sydni has decided to pursue her interests in Angus genetics and the *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) brand, attending additional events related to these focuses.

Although she's only been the ambassador since November 2017, Sydni has already zigzagged across the continent attending events such as CAB Building Blocks in Wooster, Ohio; the Cattle Industry Convention & NCBA Trade Show in Phoenix, Ariz.; and even the Guiding Outstanding Angus Leaders (GOAL) conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. In her words, the first few months have already been "an unforgettable experience."

While the position has allowed Sydni to represent the Association and give back, it has also provided her the opportunity to hone her career goals. She says that it has opened doors for her through connections, as well as opportunities for jobs, internships and other career development options.

For juniors considering running for the Angus Ambassador position, Sydni's piece of advice is to stay up to date with what's going on in the beef industry and the Angus Association through resources like the *Angus Journal*, *The Angus Report*, *Directions* newsletter and more. Follow the rest of Sydni's year as the Angus Ambassador and her travels through her blog at www.angus.org/njaa/AngusAmbassador.aspx.

— Will Pohlman, vice chairman

Retiring Six NJAA Board

As another National Junior Angus Show comes and goes each year, that means new members of the National Junior Angus Board of Directors (NJAB) are elected, and junior board members retire. The 50th NJAS will consist of the same tradition during closing ceremonies. I took the time to interview the retiring junior board members for this year.



**Chairman:
Madison Butler**

Q: What is your major in college?

A: My major is animal science with a focus in biotechnology at Oklahoma State University.

Q: What is your dream job?

A: If I can't stay home and manage cows, I would love to spend my days educating cattle producers about how to utilize genetic technologies on their operations.

Q: Where are you headed after you graduate college with your bachelor's degree?

A: After graduating I'm going to get my master's degree from Kansas State University in animal breeding and genetics.



**Foundation Director:
Corbin Cowles**

Q: What is your major in college?

A: My major is animal science at Oklahoma State University.

Q: What is your dream job?

A: My dream job would be to be an auctioneer.

Q: Where are you headed after you graduate college with your bachelor's degree?

A: I am the youngest of the old six, so I will not be graduating in May. I will be back at Oklahoma State in the fall to finish my bachelor's degree.



**Vice Chairman:
Will Pohlman**

Q: What is your major in college?

A: I have degrees in biochemistry and animal science from the University of Arkansas.

Q: What is your dream job?

A: My dream job would be a cardiologist.

Q: Where are you headed after you graduate college with your bachelor's degree?

A: I start medical school at Duke in August of 2018.



**Leadership Director:
Jordyn Wagner**

Q: What is your major in college?

A: My major is elementary education with a reading minor.

Q: What is your dream job?

A: My dream job is to be a fourth grade teacher with a reading certificate in an area where I can also run the cattle company my family and I own.

Q: Where are you headed after you graduate college with your bachelor's degree?

A: Fingers crossed, I get a teaching job in Billings, Mont., right after I graduate. I would like to teach a few years before starting my master's degree. Then I will continue to teach and start my master courses online or take night classes. I would like to get my master's degree in educational leadership and/or a master's in administration.

of Directors



Communications Director: Catie Hope

Q: What is your major in college?

A: My major is animal science and beef nutrition at Ferrum College.

Q: What is your dream job?

A: My dream job would be to own a social media and marketing firm.

Q: Where are you headed after

you graduate college with your bachelor's degree?

A: After graduating at Ferrum College, I plan on getting my master's degree in beef nutrition at North Carolina State.



Membership Director: Michaela Clowser

Q: What is your major in college?

A: My major is agriculture economics with a minor in animal science at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

Q: What is your dream job?

A: I'm not exactly sure what my dream job is, but possibly working in industry relations.

Q: Where are you headed after you graduate college with your bachelor's degree?

A: After graduating at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, I plan to pursue a master's degree at Kansas State.

— *Madison Sundsbak, director*

The Importance of a Thank You Note

Thank you notes are extremely undervalued in today's society. Sometimes, people forget to write them, and some don't know how to write them effectively. No matter who they may be, anyone who dedicates time, money or effort to help you, they deserve a thank you. Whether it's someone who bought an animal from you, an advisor, a teacher, or even a friend who supported you in one way or another, a simple thank you goes a long way.

Even as an older junior member, I find myself struggling to find the right words when trying to write a thank you. Then I remember the value of a thank you note, and the impact it can make to the people who support me, and then it becomes easy to write. Here are a few reasons why a thank you note is an invaluable tool:

1. A handwritten thank you note is worth gold. It shows that you took the time to put effort in to creating a custom, personal note. While writing your note, make sure you say how much their support impacted you, and how thankful you are. Always make sure to check your spelling and grammar. Errors appear unprofessional and lack care.
2. The saying "better late than never" does not apply to thank you notes. The golden rule of thank you notes is that the maximum delay on writing and sending them is two weeks after the event. If you have multiple thank you notes to write, it will be useful to write out all the names of your supporters, and depending how many you have to write, write a few per day to help get done in a timely manner.
3. Writing a thank you note sets you apart. It shows that you have gratitude for what that individual has done for you and creates a positive impression of your character to that person. It's always valuable to be remembered as a grateful person, instead of a thankless one. If you're applying for a job, it shows how the opportunity meant something to you and will give that positive impression to your possible employer.
4. Using positive language within a thank you letter, like "greetings," "sincerely," "with gratitude," etc., will allow you to build a personal note to your recipient. In today's world, positive connections are vital. People will always be willing to help someone they respect and have a relationship with.

If you remember these few reasons to write a thank you, you will be inspired to write more of them, and more often! Make it personal and show that you care. Don't forget to thank everyone in your life who has allowed you to accomplish your goals and be the best you can be. You wouldn't be where you are without them!

— *Dawson Dal Porto, director*

DNA Sampling

As more and more shows are providing expected progeny differences (EPDs) to judges, the need for DNA sampling is on the rise, but getting a DNA sample can be challenging. Thinking back on my first try at pulling DNA, I cringe. It really is quite easy, though, once you know what you are doing!

For example, say we need to pull DNA on Daisy the show heifer. Once we have Daisy in the chute, we are going to write her tattoo number on the DNA card. Then we will either pull a hair sample, or draw some blood. Most labs prefer the use of blood samples over hair. Collecting blood is as simple as 1, 2 and 3!

1. Clean the surface. I didn't do this my first time and boy, was it messy in that ear!
2. Prick the ear with a clean needle. Now you can either draw blood out and expel it on to the card, or press the DNA card against the prick. I am not so good at staying

in the lines so I draw the needle out and make sure that I get a good and clean sample. If you are drawing blood on more than one animal, be sure to use separate needles to avoid cross-contamination.

3. Let it dry and send it on its way. Samples can be sent to: AGI, 3201 Frederick Avenue, Saint Joseph, MO 64506.

Another way you can get a DNA test done, as I mentioned, is with a hair sample. You'll need to make sure you get the root of the hair when you pull it out. You will need approximately 20-30 strands of hair with the root bulb intact to ensure enough DNA is present to run the test. Place them onto the DNA card with the ID written on it. Be sure and cut the excess hair off and you are good to go!

DNA blood cards can be ordered through AGI at 816-383-5100.

—Catie Hope, communications director

HOW TO COLLECT A DNA SAMPLE

Blood Sample

Preferred method



Record animal ID # (tattoo and/or tag number) on a DNA card, available at angus.org.



Wipe the ear clean using a clean paper towel or cloth.



Prick the vein in the animal's ear with a sterile needle.



Touch the circle on the DNA card to the blood site on the ear.



Fill the circle with blood.



Allow the card to dry away from direct sunlight for at least 24 hours prior to mailing. Do not mail the card in a sealed plastic bag.

Hair Sample

Required with twins. Not recommended for animals younger than four months, unless twins



Record animal ID # (tattoo and/or tag number) on the hair card.



Pull from the tail switch "up and away" (20 hairs with root bulbs).



Place bulbs on the back flap. Peel off backing paper on sticky flap.



Press sticky side on top of bulbs to seal sides. Hair bulbs must be present to perform tests.



Trim excess hair to the edges of the hair card.

Good Samples



Order testing through AAA Login and mail samples with order confirmation to:

Angus Genetics Inc.

3201 Frederick Ave. | Saint Joseph, MO 64506

816-383-5100 | www.angus.org

NJAA DIRECTOR NAME FIND

N F H I P I P K I N F H H Y A R U E
 W S L Z T F G H F M I P L K R A K B
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 T P T F C H X Q E B U T L E R I N V

Find the following words in the puzzle. Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘. Key on page 11.

BUTLER
CLOWSER
COWLES

DALPORTO
DEHAAN
FITZGERALD

GERKEN
HOPE
PIPKIN

POHLMAN
SUNDSBAK
WAGNER

Make a Note

NJAS: Note the early NJAS ownership and entry deadline is May 15 (postmark date).

NJAA board candidates:

Applications are due by June 1 to the Events and Education Department.

2018 LEAD conference: Sign up early and save! After June 15, the registration rate increases for junior members. Please remember space is limited.

Online Registrations

Save time by registering for shows and conferences online at www.njaa.info. You will receive an immediate response once your entries and registrations have been received by the AAA office.

Scholarships

Visit the Angus Foundation website at www.angusfoundation.org for more information about scholarships offered for both undergraduate and graduate students. Note the May 1, 2018, deadline!

Q&A with 2018 Miss American Angus

My name is Kallie Anne Knott, and I am from LaOtto, Ind. I am majoring in animal sciences concentrating in meat sciences at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind. I plan to continue to earn my master's degree and doctorate specializing in carcass expected progeny differences (EPDs) and genetics. I am the 2018 Miss American Angus and my passion is in the Angus industry.

1. What/who inspired you to become Miss American Angus?

My grandpa, Richard Ward, inspired me to run for Miss American Angus because he introduced me to the livestock industry and taught me how to be humble in life. He has helped me persevere in life when things get tough.

He always told me, "You may not have everything you want, but you have everything you need."

My mom also encouraged me to take 20 seconds of courage to advocate for not only myself, but my family and the Angus industry. She has been there for me so much, and she knows me so well that she knew I should be taking this opportunity.

2. What has been your favorite part of being MAA so far?

I enjoy traveling all over the country to learn about the Angus breed from Angus enthusiasts, breeders and advocates. I loved participating and learning about the *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) brand, as well as watching the carload and pen shows at the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo. They both included my favorite things — the business breed, the meat industry and EPDs.

3. Who is your biggest role model/hero?

My biggest role model is my dad. We are very similar in our actions and personalities, which makes it hard sometimes to have conversations with him, but I would not want to have any conversation about breeding or feeding decisions with anyone else but him. He has been my No. 1 supporter and always encourages me to think things through whenever it comes to decision-making. He is my best friend, and I do not know what I would do without him.

4. What are your goals moving forward as MAA?

As Miss American Angus, I want to absorb all the information I learn from industry leaders and breeders within the cattle industry. I hope to apply what I learn to my community, state and companies within the country by advocating for The Business Breed.

5. How do you stay connected with your peers and the juniors of the association?

Whenever I finish an event or travel somewhere, I always write thank you notes to the people that helped me at the event or put a smile on my face throughout the day. I update

all my followers on my Facebook and Instagram pages by posting pictures of my travels and some of the people I met along the way. Follow me at:

Facebook/Instagram name — 2018 Miss American Angus



6) What hobbies do you have outside of being involved in the cattle industry?

I love spending time with my family, tobogganing/snowboarding and traveling. I enjoy being surrounded by positive people, especially my family and my friends that have been made at school and the cattle industry. I am also on the Purdue University Meat Science Quiz Bowl Team, which allows me to learn about certain cuts of meat and their value.

7. What advice would you give a young lady who wanted to become MAA someday?

I would encourage any young lady that is eligible to run for Miss American Angus to have 20 seconds of courage to get out of your comfort zone and go through the process of an interview, written test, public speech, impromptu questions and etiquette session. All of these events in the contest improved my public speaking and on-the-spot thinking.

I enjoyed meeting the American Angus Association staff, as well as other Angus enthusiasts and advocates from the industry. Persevere by overcoming any fears and try something new. Throughout the process of the application and contest, do not be afraid to ask any questions that you might have. There are so many people that are willing to help you achieve your goals.

8. What is your favorite thing about Angus cattle?

The Business Breed always amazes me with its phenotypic quality, but mostly the genotypic and EPD quality. Our Association is building on itself every day, especially with the new genomics test and the education to the consumer public about the process or routines that go on day to day on a farm.

9. Where do you see yourself 10 years from now?

In 10 years, I want to have a stable job working for Certified Angus Beef LLC communicating with ranchers about the concerns and expectations the meat consumers are demanding. I would also like to continue in the research and genetics area with either the American Angus Association or Trans Ova.

10. What is your favorite quote?

"You may not have everything you want, but you have everything you need." — *Richard Ward.*

— *questions asked by Jera Pipkin, director*

Five Reasons to Find Yourself a Mentor

During the past 21 years of my life and especially the past 13 years of being a junior in the NJAA, I have had the privilege of being mentored by many influential men and women who have helped shaped me into the woman I am today.

Here are five reasons I have found why it is vital to have a mentor.

1. Mentors provide information and knowledge.

They have the experiences you can learn from to prevent making a beginner's mistakes.

As Benjamin Franklin said, "Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."

When my sister and I started out in the cattle world, we had no idea what was involved in showing cattle, the responsibility that was needed, the resources, or how competitive this industry is. With a mentor there from the start, we tapped into a wealth of knowledge that got us up to speed faster and shortened that learning curve.

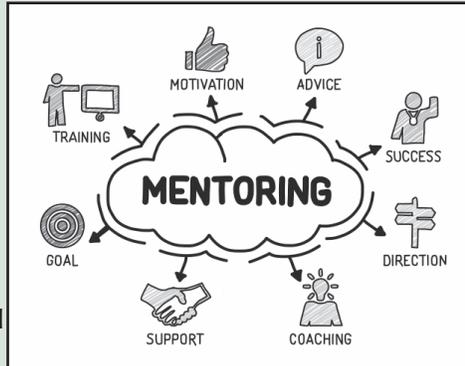
Bo Sanchez said, "Getting a mentor is the shortcut to success."

A mentor has been there, right where you are, and has made numerous mistakes that they can now use as a basis for helping others to skip the devastating effects of not knowing. I am all about doing things smarter, so one of my mentors shared many stories about the mistakes he made along the way that became learning lessons for me, minus the pain and lost resources that come from making those mistakes. However, that does not mean you won't make a few mistakes of your own... because I definitely did, but I learned from those mistakes.

2. Mentors can see where we need to improve where we often cannot.

Moviemaker George Lucas noted, "Mentors have a way of seeing more of our faults than we would like. It's the only way we grow."

They will be brutally honest with you and tell you exactly how it is



rather than downplay any weaknesses they see in you. I experienced a lot of tough love from my mentors. They did this because all of them understood that being a successful person can be challenging when it comes to self-motivation and self-discipline.

This constructive criticism that my mentors have offered helped me to see things in myself that I could not recognize.

3. Mentors find ways to stimulate our personal and professional growth. Mentors are the connectors.

"The delicate balance of mentoring someone is not creating them in your own image, but giving them the opportunity to create themselves." — Anonymous

My mentors would often pose questions for me to think about and ask me to come back with answers later.

They would also set various goals for me and set me loose to see if I could accomplish them on my own, all the while watching from a distance to see how these projects helped me to develop. Mentors should make a point to sit down and tell you what they observed about you through the project process. Mentors often focus on character and values, which nurture personal growth, as well as leadership abilities. Playing a dual role of teacher and connector, a mentor can provide access to those within your industry that are willing to invest in you, offer their skills and expertise, and introduce you to talent that can fuel your goals.

4. Mentors are sounding boards so we bounce ideas off them for unfiltered opinion.

Sometimes I get many ideas that need some outside thoughts and opinions. I relayed all of these ideas to my mentors (depending on the situation, it might change which mentor I go to, whether it's for teaching, cattle, my personal life or school) who then help me see which ones have potential and why others are better left alone.

5. Mentors are free, which makes them priceless in more ways than one.

Typically, a mentoring relationship will grow naturally through connections within your industry and network. A mentor does not do it for the money. Instead, they are driven by the satisfaction of helping another entrepreneur, paying it forward from a similar experience they had when in that situation themselves at one point in time.

I feel fortunate enough to have had this experience and am now in a position to return the favor to others that are just starting out. Not only is the price right, but your mentor is also providing priceless access to everything noted on this list and more.

Having a mentor is not a sign of weakness; it shows you are smart enough and are driven enough to succeed.

"We must find time to stop and thank the people who make a difference in our lives," said John F. Kennedy.

— Jordyn Wagner, leadership director

(Key to word search on page 9)

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Important Dates and Deadlines for Juniors

APRIL 2018

12-15 Western Regional, Reno, Nev.

19-22 Raising the Bar, Oklahoma City, Okla.

15 Ownership & entry deadline for the Atlantic National Jr. Show

MAY 2018

1 Deadline for Gold Award applications

1 Outstanding Leadership Award applications due

1 Ownership & entry deadline for All-American Angus Breeder's Futurity

1 Ownership & entry deadline for Eastern Regional Jr. Angus Show

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

1 CAB/NJAA scholarship applications due

1 Angus Foundation scholarship applications due

15 Ownership & 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 & recipe deadline for All-American *Certified Angus Beef*[®] Cook-Off

25 Deadline for NJAA Public Speaking Contest speech outlines

25 Deadline for Career Development Contest Résumés

25 Late entry deadline for National Junior Angus Show (online only)

25-27 Atlantic National Jr. Angus Show, Timonium, Md.

JUNE 2018

1 NJAA Board Candidate applications due

1 Deadline for submitting names of state delegates and showmanship contestants

13-16 Northwest Regional Jr. Angus Show

14-17 Eastern Regional Jr. Angus Shows

15-17 All-American Angus Breeder's Futurity

15 LEAD registrations due (early registration deadline)

JULY 2018

7-13 National Junior Angus Show, Madison, Wis.

15 LEAD registration deadline

AUGUST 2018

2-5 LEAD conference, Billings, Mont.

