

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Encouraging, supporting and recognizing the accomplishments of the youth of the Angus breed is the cornerstone of the mission of the American Angus Auxiliary. The current leaders and members of the American Angus Auxiliary take that mission seriously, and we work to uphold our traditions while focusing on the future.

"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt

At the Forefront

Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." The American Angus Association, National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), the Angus Foundation, the Auxiliary and Angus breeders provide many programs and opportunities for youth. These opportunities teach important life skills, promote practical experiences, build self-esteem and afford our youth the knowledge and tools to succeed.

The Auxiliary was at the forefront of our breed's quest to "build youth for the future." Prior to the forming of the Association's Junior Activities Department, the Auxiliary set out on its mission to recognize youth showing Angus cattle. Three years later, in 1955, the Auxiliary started our scholarship fund with a modest \$100 donation. One year after, in 1956, the first \$300 scholarship was presented.

From these humble beginnings, the Auxiliary's scholarship program has grown to our current practice of awarding 10 scholarships annually. Auxiliary members have worked tirelessly on fundraisers of all kinds, including heifer auctions and merchandise sales, to ensure the future of our scholarship program. In the 56-year history of the program, about 400 Angus youth have received scholarships.

The Tradition Continues

The Auxiliary's scholarship endowment fund held within the Angus Foundation is the product of more than 50 years of planning, dedication and fundraising. Interest from the endowed funds is used for our annual scholarship awards. The Auxiliary and its supporters are committed to growing the fund in order to preserve our tradition, as well as increase the funds available for scholarship awards.

Last year, we brought back the Auxiliary's tradition of selling a heifer to benefit our scholarship program. In June, a bred heifer donated by Gardiner Angus Ranch, Ashland, Kan., was sold during the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity for \$9,000 to French River Cattle Co. and Daisy Springs, Ont., Canada (see "French River Buys

Auxiliary Heifer" on page 32). The entire proceeds of this sale have been invested in our scholarship and awards endowments.

The American Angus Auxiliary's mission is further enhanced through the generosity of Angus breeders and supporters. Collaboration with the All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity and the Angus Foundation for this project is exciting and lends awareness of our organization and our mission.

We sincerely thank the 2012 donors, the Gardiner family, and the buyers, French River Cattle Co., for sharing our commitment to the Angus breed and its junior members as we work to "build our youth for the future" by giving them encouragement and financial support as they move forward with their educational and life goals.

Building Our Youth for the Future

The Auxiliary awarded \$12,000 in scholarships July 20 to 10 outstanding junior Angus members during the 2012 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Louisville, Ky. The recipients demonstrated an outstanding commitment to the Angus breed, junior Angus activities and leadership as well as to school and community organizations.

While reviewing the applications of the 2012 applicants, it is evident to me that our youth are being prepared for the future through participation in junior Angus activities and growing up in a way of life that is unparalleled by anything else. The scholarship application consists of seven sections that include academic achievement, lists of activities, awards and leadership, as well as essay questions in which the applicants share knowledge and experience gained in the Angus and agriculture industries. The final section of the application asks the youth to share goals, future plans and character-building experiences.

The applicants were asked to describe a personal experience or challenge within their Angus involvement that has helped to develop them into the person they are today. First-place winner Lauren Grimes described a heartbreaking experience when the calf of her cow-calf pair was fatally injured in the trailer en route to the NJAS. Lauren wrote, "This situation taught me that there are struggles and you must learn to adapt and embrace them as part of life."

Esther McCabe described her fear and apprehensiveness of participating in public speaking contests or speaking to a large crowd. She shared, "Through participation in the NJAS public speaking contest, public speaking has become one of my favorite events; I was even able to give a speech on the beef industry to a crowd of 1,700 in my hometown."

Sharing career goals and ambitions for the future is also part of the application. Scholarship recipient Maci Lienemann wrote, "As a lifelong Angus producer, my future goals and aspirations are greatly influenced by my desire to improve practice,

products and policies surrounding the beef industry. My academic goal is to obtain an advanced degree in animal science research."

Winner Corbin Yon shared, "My main career goal after graduating from college is to return to our family farm and, far in the future, raise my children in the manner [in which] I was raised."

Focusing on the Future

The Auxiliary is proud of the part we have played in "building our youth for the future." We stand by and collaborate with the American Angus Association, the NJAA, the Angus Foundation and Angus breeders to encourage youth to embrace all the junior Angus programs have to offer. We will continue to uphold our traditions, expand our reach and celebrate the youth of our industry.

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