

Youth Awarded Auxiliary Scholarships

Ten juniors awarded scholarships during the 'Sweet Southern Showdown.'

by Kayla Schmitz

The American Angus Auxiliary practiced some "sweet, Southern hospitality" during the 2009 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) July 19-25 in Perry, Ga., awarding five qualifying young men and women scholarships worth \$15,000 total.

To qualify for the Auxiliary's annual scholarships, applicants must be National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members and graduating high school seniors nominated by their state or regional associations.

The scholarship application consists of 19 sections where applicants include everything from their biographical and farm information to a 300-word Angus story. Applications are due in May, and award winners are announced at the NJAS awards ceremony. This year, 25 applicants from 20 states applied.

The 2009 scholarship recipients are:

Kyle Greiman

Kyle Greiman of Garner, Iowa, is the winner of the first-place scholarship in the male division, receiving \$1,700.



Kyle Greiman

For Greiman, raising Angus cattle is more than a choice.

"It's a tradition, a lifestyle, deeply rooted in our history," Greiman says.

This tradition started way back in 1896 when Greiman's great-great grandfather bought his first Angus bull. Ever since, the Greiman family has worked hard to maintain the precedence of excellence that came with that first purchase.

Following a family tradition of leadership — consisting of a grandfather who was on the American Angus Association Board of Directors, parents on the state association board and a brother as a junior director — Greiman took on a leadership role as an officer on the Iowa Junior Angus Association board.

His favorite Angus activity is going to

shows, where he can meet new friends and work with his cattle at the same time.

"Showing my Angus cattle has helped me to be a better communicator, breeder and showman," Greiman says.

Greiman co-owns 24 cows with his brother. They sell the calves as breeding stock or locker beef.

In addition to raising Angus, Greiman participates in FFA, 4-H, marching band and concert band.

Going to college does not mean that this is the end to the Greiman herd.

"I plan to maintain the tradition of production that wins in the showring and to keep it a family activity," Greiman says. "My kids will share the great opportunities and fun I've experienced."

Justin Kennedy

Justin Kennedy of Nashville, Mich., has received the second-place scholarship of \$1,600.

Although he has not been around Angus all his life, Kennedy believes that he has "come to realize the importance of the Angus breed to the beef cattle industry."

Since purchasing his first show heifer at the age of 11,

Kennedy now owns eight registered Angus show heifers. Kennedy has used these cows to develop his bred-and-owned projects.

Even though the herd is small, Kennedy strives for quality by researching pedigrees and expected progeny differences (EPDs) carefully, by using artificial insemination (AI), and by working closely with a veterinarian in order to maintain herd health.

From showing Angus cattle at local, state and national levels, Kennedy has been able to travel to places that he never would have seen otherwise. He takes part in other Angus activities such as the Cook-Off contest, team sales, team fitting, livestock judging and

public speaking. Kennedy says that these contests have taught him to "be productive as an individual, while working as a team."

Outside of the Angus Association, Kennedy participates in football, basketball, track, 4-H and FFA.

This fall, Kennedy will be attending Baker College in Owosso, Mich., to obtain a degree in Diesel Service Technology and eventually a job in the field.

In the distant future, Kennedy hopes to maintain and expand his Angus herd.

Zachary Wells

Winning the third-place, \$1,500 scholarship is Zachary Wells of Hamilton, Texas.

With his herd now sold in order to pay for college, Wells remembers each of his



Zachary Wells

heifers fondly and what they accomplished for him.

Wells looks across his empty pasture, but in his heart he sees Beauty, who taught him about the value of hard

work; Blackcap, who showed him that success is possible; and Everelda, who taught him to be patient, along with many other cows.

"Each one provided me with responsibilities and challenges, valuable decision-making lessons and remarkable memories," Wells says. "Angus cattle have been my life."

Wells and his cattle have excelled in the showring. In addition to that, Wells mentors young Angus fans, took part in many NJAS contests, and was the second vice president of the Texas Junior Angus Association in 2006.

Not only is Wells active in the Angus world, he participates in FFA, 4-H and his high school rodeo team. He also takes part in many volunteer projects in his community.

Although Wells is off to college for now,

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he still hopes that one day he will again raise Angus cattle.

"From Georgia to Montana, Colorado to Kentucky, Angus cattle made it possible for me to reach beyond my state boundaries and make new friends nationwide, and they will provide me with an education. Their memory will be cherished, accompanied by the hope that one day I will again see Angus cattle grazing on pastures of my own."

Joshua May

Joshua May, Hurricane Mills, Tenn., was this year's fourth-place male winner,



Joshua May

receiving the \$1,400 scholarship. For May, hard work is a necessity to live the lifestyle he loves. From January through April, May spent his off-hours calving, and while some kids spent the summers relaxing, May was hard at work. A typical summer day started out with early morning football workouts, then rinsing heifers, and then the rest of the day spent helping his dad with the 650 acres of soybeans and 650 acres of corn on the farm.

May says that showing and raising Angus cattle have taught him the value of "responsibility, time management and hard work."

With a herd consisting of 43 registered Angus cows, four registered Angus bulls and 41 commercial cows, May has spent the past 14 years working to improve his herd, and he hopes to continue the progress.

"My ambition is to continue to improve our Angus genetics and produce quality show heifers for the next generation of May exhibitors," he says. "I also want to be able to keep producing quality Angus cattle that meet the Angus customers' needs and demands."

May is also involved in FFA, Drama Club and 4-H.

May will attend college this fall to study agriculture. Upon completion of his studies, he plans to return home to farm alongside his dad for many more years.

Austin Perry

Austin Perry of Prather, Calif., is the winner of the fifth-place, \$1,300 scholarship.

Perry was given his first Angus cow at the tender age of 1. With the use of AI, that one cow has multiplied into a herd of 29 registered Angus cows.

Perry's next big Angus milestone was at

the age of 8, when he showed his first heifer. He started out in California state shows, but he has since moved on to show in five



Austin Perry

different states — Iowa being the latest and farthest away. "The hours spent in the pickup truck pulling a trailer full of show heifers have left many fond memories," Perry says. "I am very

lucky to have a family that has given me support and direction to help shape my future." In addition to showing cattle, Perry has attended Angus leadership conferences where he was able to visit ranches in other states and meet industry leaders. Perry has also served the California Junior Angus Association (CJAA) by taking on various officer roles, including president.

Perry is involved in FFA, 4-H and many community service projects.

His goal is to attend Redlands College in Oklahoma where he will judge livestock and then attend Oklahoma State University (OSU) to earn a degree in pre-veterinary medicine with a minor in animal science.

After college, Perry plans to open a reproductive specialty cattle facility. He believes that he will continue to stay involved in the American Angus Association.

JanLee Rowlett

Winning the first-place scholarship of \$1,700 is JanLee Rowlett of Hurricane Mills, Tenn.



JanLee Rowlett

Rowlett's great-grandfather once said, "I take care of my Angus cows because my Angus cows take care of me." With a family farm operation that started in 1935 and has since been passed down for six generations, Rowlett works hard to fulfill the legacy that her ancestors created.

Her parents both work demanding jobs, which causes the responsibilities of the herd to fall upon Rowlett and her siblings. The youth have to take care of the everyday tasks that are necessary when raising their 50-head herd. They work with the show cattle, feed all of the animals, check the cows and calves, order feed, check fences, and complete many other duties.

Rowlett has learned to harness the power of AI and embryo transfer (ET) in order to improve her herd's genetics.

As her farm responsibilities are about to end, Rowlett looks forward to attending OSU where she will major in animal science. She would also like to become a lawyer and specialize in agriculture law.

"My upbringing has taught me the importance of people who are willing to dedicate their lives to preserving agriculture and the cattle industry and to protecting farmers and ranchers from issues that threaten agriculture today," Rowlett says.

She says she will expand her Angus herd so she can "carry the torch of Angus cattle" for her children and grandchildren.

Lindsey Grimes

Lindsey Grimes, of Hillsboro, Ohio, is the winner of the second-place, \$1,600 scholarship.



Lindsey Grimes

While some teenagers spent their high school years at football games and school dances, Grimes was in the barn, working with her Angus cattle. Everyone who knows her thinks of her as "the girl who has all those Angus cows."

A day in the life of Grimes consists of early morning feedings, school, coming home, rinsing heifers and feeding again. In the summer, Grimes and her sister work round the clock in order to get the cattle ready for shows and the annual fall sale.

She attributes much of her success to her sister, who she considers her best friend and the biggest help she has ever had.

Grimes has learned a lot through her work with her 150 registered Angus cows, 20 commercial Angus cows and 14 other cows.

"Angus cattle have taught me things I can't learn in a classroom," she explains. "I have learned not to take the little things for granted, and everything happens for a reason."

Her involvement in the Angus breed has given her the title of Ohio Junior Angus Association State Angus Queen.

Grimes now plans to attend Ohio State University where she will major in animal science. Her goal is to become a certified embryo technician.

"This career will allow me to continue working within the industry and staying close with many prominent producers," Grimes says.

Kelli Retallick

Winning the \$1,500 scholarship is Kelli Retallick from Glen Haven, Wis.

As Retallick has gotten older, her responsibilities on her family's farm have shifted. While she was young, her main job was to watch the gates as her dad drove. Now her farm duties have multiplied. Retallick often works with the genetics of her cattle. She assists with the selection of bulls to breed to her cows, and then she helps with AIing the cows. She also helps with ET and ultrasound scanning.



Kelli Retallick

After the calves are born, Retallick must feed, vaccinate, tag, weigh and register the newborns. She also helps with working the show cattle and getting cattle ready for her family's annual sale.

Through all of this hard work, Retallick has grown into a driven and persevering individual. She believes that raising Angus has instilled important life skills that she can use not only in her work with Angus cattle but also in real life.

Retallick will attend the University of Wisconsin–Madison where she will major in animal science. After she earns a bachelor's degree she plans to go on to receive a doctorate as a veterinarian or reproductive specialist.

"This path will allow me to work closely with breeders, striving to enhance their genetics, health and herd performance," Retallick says. "I realize the importance of having high-quality genetics in order to earn the highest profit margin."

Sally Yon

Sally Yon of Ridge Spring, S.C., is the winner of the fourth-place, \$1,400 scholarship.

Yon Family Farms was established in 1996, and as it has grown into an almost 800-head herd, Yon herself has grown, too. She says that as long as she can remember she has been able to look out her window and see Angus cattle.



Sally Yon

Although the massive herd has taken a lot of hard work and dedication, the Yon family

has been able to live entirely off of the cattle business.

Yon's own herd started when she was 6 years old and her family gave her two heifers. When she got older, she borrowed money from an agricultural loan program in order to purchase more cattle from her family's farm. Yon raises her cattle with the rest of the family cattle at no expense to her. When the animals are sold, she receives a percentage of the profits.

In addition to the day-to-day tasks of running an Angus farm, Yon is involved in her state Angus Association and the NJAA, where she shows cattle and takes part in other activities.

"I am proud to say that I have never shown an animal that was not bred on our farm," Yon says.

Yon will attend Clemson University this fall to major in agricultural education.

"I will take with me a strong work ethic, and a passion for Angus cattle and agriculture, and look forward to sharing that with others," Yon says.

Ellen Hoffschneider

Winning the \$1,300 fifth-place



Ellen Hoffschneider

scholarship is Ellen Hoffschneider of Arlington, Neb.

Hoffschneider's life as an Angus producer has been like 18 years of school for her. The school bell rings at 6 o'clock in the morning, and from

there on out she learns different lessons that are necessary for raising a herd.

"My first classes included the feeding and care of Angus cattle and showmanship and grooming 101," Hoffschneider says. "As I've grown older, I've added genetics and reproduction, business management, and every year I've advanced in team work, perseverance and responsibility."

These "classes" have taught her all that she needs to know about taking care of cattle, she says. After the lessons are over, it's time for real-world experience with "field trips" to various cattle shows, including the main event, the NJAS.

It is there that Hoffschneider shows her heifer and competes in "extracurricular" activities like the public speaking contest, livestock judging and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off.

Now that Hoffschneider has graduated from this "school" she would like to attend

the University of Nebraska–Lincoln where she will major in agriculture journalism.

"My studies at Hoffschneider Angus have revealed a passion for the Angus breed and communications," Hoffschneider says. "I hope someday to teach my own class on the lessons of life through Angus cattle and to help ensure a strong future for the breed that has taught me so much."

