

Freedom to Excel

Ten junior Angus members receive scholarships during “Let Freedom Ring.”

by **Linda Robbins**, assistant editor

The American Angus Auxiliary and its supporters gave 10 qualifying junior Angus members the ability to pursue their dreams when they announced the winners of \$12,000 in scholarships during the 2011 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Harrisburg, Pa., July 12.

The Auxiliary awards scholarships annually to five qualifying young men and five qualifying young women, chosen this year from among 25 applicants representing 18 states. To qualify for one of the scholarships, applicants must be National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members and graduating high school seniors nominated by their state or regional associations.

Applications are due in May, and winners are recognized during the NJAS Awards Ceremony. The Auxiliary has awarded these scholarships for more than 50 years.

The recipients for 2011 are:

Lindsay Upperman

Lindsay Upperman, Chambersburg, Pa., is the winner of the first-place female scholarship and will receive \$1,400.

Graduating first in her class at James



Lindsay Upperman

Buchanan High School, Lindsay served as president of the student body and is president of the Franklin County 4-H County Council and 4-H Baby Beef clubs. She is presently

president of the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association and junior chair of fundraising for this year's NJAS in Pennsylvania, as well as Pennsylvania Angus Queen.

“Leadership is difficult to define, but easy to recognize,” Lindsay says. “I have studied my mentors and teachers to determine what is required of leaders, and I have accepted many leadership roles in order to gain leadership skills.”

Successful in the showing at the county,

state, regional and national levels, one of Lindsay's heifers won grand and reserve grand champion bred-and-owned female at the 2010 Keystone International Livestock Exposition (KILE) and the 2011 Mid-Atlantic Junior Angus Classic (MAJAC) shows, respectively. She has also won honors in various judging and stockman's contests, and plans to hone her judging abilities as a member of the livestock judging team at Butler Community College in El Dorado, Kan.

Lindsay says her leadership experiences and the knowledge she has gained from them have been a major influence in shaping her into the person she is today.

“Ever since I was 5 years old, I have wanted to be a veterinarian,” Lindsay explains. “As I have progressed through the years, I narrowed my broad career goals into a more specific path. I now hope to obtain a doctorate in animal genetics.”

Brooke Harward

The second-place, \$1,300 female scholarship winner is Brooke Harward, Richfield, N.C.



Brooke Harward

Brooke is a graduate of Gray Stone Day School, where she was the chapter president of the National Honor Society, class president all four years and a scholar athlete. She is currently president of the North Carolina

Junior Angus Association after serving as vice president and secretary, and says she has tried to advance the junior association by focusing on activities that involve the younger members.

Brooke is most proud of her work as an officer in her state's junior association because it gave her confidence that through perseverance and hard work she could accomplish her goals.

“It is my hope that these

accomplishments have helped inspire younger juniors to have the confidence to accomplish their goals,” Brooke says. “Whether those goals are in the Angus industry or not, I believe I have shown them that you can achieve your goals if you work hard, and, most importantly, have confidence in yourself.”

Brooke's career plans start at North Carolina State University, where she will pursue a degree in agricultural business management.

In her future career as owner and manager of livestock auction operations in North and South Carolina, as well as owner and manager of a registered Angus cattle operation, she plans to focus on the marketing aspects of the industry.

“I look forward to being able to give back to the industry that has provided me with the life I live today,” Brooke says.

Maggie Jasper

Maggie Jasper, Versailles, Ky., is the winner of the third-place female scholarship and will receive \$1,200.

Maggie, a graduate of Woodford County



Maggie Jasper

High School, has never been content with just being a member of an organization. She has served in a variety of leadership roles in the Kentucky Junior Angus Association, the Kentucky Junior

Cattlemen's Association and the Woodford County FFA. She is also the reigning 2011-2012 Kentucky Angus Queen.

“But I feel that these titles mean nothing if contributions are not made,” Maggie says. “Making your own success and achieving your own goals is important, but to help someone else accomplish something along the way can be incredibly rewarding.”

Maggie says she has learned from her father and grandfather as they evaluated

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cattle, and she has used that knowledge to judge her own cattle.

“Anyone can buy a nice show heifer, but to show one that is bred-and-owned and still keep up with the others is something to be proud of,” Maggie says. “Obviously, the joy of winning is exciting no matter the animal, but to be able to take responsibility for the heifer that you are holding at the backdrop is an incredible feeling.”

Maggie will be attending Eastern Kentucky University to pursue a degree in occupational therapy because it combines teaching, helping and improving the lives of each patient with whom she will be in contact.

Even though she chose a non-agriculture-related field, Maggie thinks she will be able to reach far more people outside of the industry, and she intends to continue to tell her “Angus story.”

Katelyn Wilson

Katelyn Wilson, Orleans, Ind., is the fourth-place female scholarship winner and will receive \$1,100.

“I have been an active member of the National Junior Angus Association, Indiana Junior Angus Association and Hilltoppers 4-H club since I was 9 years old, and a member of my local FFA chapter since I was 13,” Katelyn says. “Becoming a leader at a young age, I have learned the importance of keeping a calm head on my shoulders, and being fair and honest in all decisions that are made.”

Katelyn will be attending the University of Kentucky and majoring in agricultural communications. Her ambition is to make a career as a spokesperson for the beef industry, and for Angus cattle in particular.

While having a plan for the future is important, Katelyn says she has often found that along the way the ideas she started out with get redirected and lead her to places she never imagined.

“Even though being a strong advocate for the beef industry is a huge task to take on, and a very important one at that, the core success of our lives lies within the ways in which we raise our families,” she asserts. “Knowing and appreciating the gift that the

beef industry has given me is something that I feel very strongly about, and passing this on through another generation of Angus producers will seem like one of the greatest accomplishments I can achieve in my life.”

Jessica Radcliffe

Jessica Radcliffe, Weston, Wis., is the fifth-place female scholarship winner, and will receive \$1,000.

A graduate of D.C. Everest Senior High School in Weston, Jessica has served a variety of leadership roles in the Popplewood 4-H organization, the Wisconsin Livestock Breeders Association, the Wisconsin Quarter Horse Association and the D.C. Everest DECA. She is currently serving as the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association president.



Jessica Radcliffe

Successful in the showing at the county, state, regional and national levels, Jessica enjoys working with other junior members to help them improve their skills.

“I have worked with juniors to improve their showmanship skills, and they usually have succeeded,” Jessica says. “They may not always win, but it’s not always about winning but learning from mistakes and how to improve from those mistakes.”

Jessica plans to attend the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and major in agricultural business. Though she has not finalized her career path yet, Jessica is interested in marketing, sales, public relations and advertising.

She explains that the NJAA has given her many great experiences in addition to showing cattle, including her participation in the speaking contests, the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) Cook-Off, the mentoring program and leadership conferences.

“Angus is in my blood,” Jessica says. “They say one never has to work a day in their life if they are doing what they love. Angus cattle and the cattle industry are what I love, and I plan to promote, advocate and support the beef cattle and Angus industries into the future.”

Daniel McFarland

Daniel McFarland, Keithville, La., is the first-place winner of the young men’s scholarship. He will receive \$1,400.

Daniel is a graduate of Caddo Parish Magnet High School and has served in leadership positions in the Student Government Association, the Caddo Parish 4-H Club and the Louisiana Junior Cattlemen’s Association. He is presently serving a second term as president of the Louisiana Junior Angus Association.



Daniel McFarland

Daniel has won numerous awards in the showing at every level, and has received community, state and national recognition for his promotion of agriculture and the beef industry.

“Every fiber of my body lives for promoting the Angus breed on the local, state and national level,” Daniel says. “There is nothing I love more than showing my Angus cattle across this nation.”

Daniel plans to double-major in agriculture and microbiology in college, combining the two passions of his life while continuing to play a vital part in the cattle industry. After college, he intends to go to medical school near his family’s farm, with the ultimate career goal of becoming Louisiana’s Commissioner of Agriculture.

“I will forever continue raising and enjoying my Angus cattle and remaining an active part of the American Angus Association,” Daniel adds. “I am looking forward to continuing to love and appreciate the God-given privileges that come with living life on an Angus ranch.”

Austin Thummel

The second-place, \$1,300 young men’s scholarship winner is Austin Thummel, Sheridan, Mo.

Austin is a graduate of Worth County R-III High School, where he served as treasurer of the junior class and was an active member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

Austin has a winning history in the showing at the state, regional and national levels and has been a member of winning teams for the Auxiliary-sponsored All-

American CAB Cook-Off, Quiz Bowl and Team Sales competitions.

"In team contests, the team is generally only as strong as the weakest link," Austin



Austin Thummel

says. "As a team member, I always try to pull my own weight and seek out ways to help all members be as good as they can possibly be."

Austin is the 2011 president of the Missouri Junior

Angus Association and will attend Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo., as an agriculture business major. While he says his minor may shift from animal science to agronomy or soil science depending on his view of future employment opportunities, Austin expects to work in the industry after college in some capacity for a period of time before attaining his ultimate goal.

"My far-reaching career goal is still to return to our family farm as the sixth generation to own and operate it," Austin says. "Since agriculture is what I live and breathe, I will be a promoter, advocate and supporter of production agriculture until the day I die."

Judson Hoffschneider

Judson Hoffschneider, Arlington, Neb., is the winner of the third-place young men's scholarship and will receive \$1,200.



Judson Hoffschneider

A graduate of Logan View High School, where he lettered in football and basketball and was captain of those teams, Judson plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as an agribusiness

major with a banking and finance option.

A successful competitor in the showing at the county, regional, state and national levels, Judson has been an officer in the Washington County 4-H Club, the Logan View FFA and the Nebraska Junior Angus Association.

"I believe that leading by example is a very valuable tool," Judson says. "I am not a vocal leader, but rather a quieter, behind-the-scenes doer, and I have strived to be a good example in all I do."

One of the highlights of this past year, Judson says, was his trip to Taiwan as part of the Nebraska Agriculture Youth Institute (NAYI), a group that helps promote agriculture awareness and educates the youth of Nebraska about the varied careers available in the agricultural field.

In addition to exploring other international agricultural opportunities at college, Judson also hopes to participate on the livestock judging team, become a part of the Beef Industry Scholars program and possibly minor in animal science.

"I hope one day to be an agricultural loan officer and work in the field of agriculture credit," Judson says. "It would be great to live in a rural area and give my children the same opportunities that I had."

Miles Pearson

The fourth-place young men's scholarship winner is Miles Pearson, Scott City, Kan. He will receive \$1,100.



Miles Pearson

Miles is a graduate of Scott Community High School where he was a member of the National Honor Society, the Science Club, a three-year letterman on the wrestling team and ran cross country as

a state qualifier on the state championship track team.

"I don't think I am academically the brightest student in my class, so many of my accomplishments are due to hard work, persistence and the knowledge that if I work hard enough, I can achieve my goals in school and in life," Miles says.

A longtime participant in livestock judging, Miles attends several contests each year and has attended judging schools in Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. He was the 10th-high individual at the state 4-H contest, and his team was third overall.

While he has had success in the showing and has been active in 4-H, FFA, the Kansas Junior Livestock Association and the Kansas Junior Angus Association, Miles says he takes particular pride in raising Angus cattle as a family endeavor.

Miles plans to attend Kansas State University as a food science and industry major. He intends to apply to veterinary

school and work in the animal health field following graduation.

He also wants to continue to produce Pathfinder® cows and market bulls and replacement heifers.

"My plan is to keep an active interest in the management of this herd as well as my membership in the American Angus Association, Kansas Angus Association and the Kansas Livestock Association, and possibly pursue leadership opportunities in these groups."

Cole Greiman

Cole Greiman, Garner, Iowa, is the fifth-place young men's scholarship winner and will receive \$1,000.

A graduate of Garner-Hayfield



Cole Greiman

Community School, Cole played varsity basketball and golf and was on the honor roll. He has been a member and officer of the Hancock County 4-H, the Elcon Indians 4-H clubs, the Iowa River

FFA Chapter and the Iowa Junior Angus Association.

"I have not been involved with these organizations for my own recognition or a pat on the back," Cole says. "I wanted to be involved so I could learn more and be with my friends. I have gained a lot more than I have probably given."

Cole is most proud of showing the 2010 grand champion bred-and-owned heifer at the Central Regional Angus Show and at the NJAS the same year. He says he had always dreamed of winning those two shows, but thought it was unrealistic since his family has only about 25 purebred Angus cows.

Cole plans to attend Iowa State University and pursue a degree in agricultural studies. Though he hasn't yet decided what type of career he will pursue, he knows he wants to stay involved with producing the kind of cattle that win in the showing and still appeal to breeders and consumers.

"My family has been very active in the Angus breed through various leadership roles. I plan on continuing that tradition," Cole says. "I want to give my kids the great lifestyle and opportunities that I've enjoyed because of my involvement in the Angus industry."

