

Swinging for the Fences

Angus juniors receive Auxiliary scholarships during
“A League of Our Own” in Louisville, Ky.

by *Linda Robbins*

The American Angus Auxiliary and its supporters helped 10 qualifying junior Angus members swing for the fences when they announced the winners of \$12,000 in scholarships during the 2012 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Louisville, Ky., July 20.

The Auxiliary awards scholarships annually to five qualifying young men and five qualifying young women, chosen this year from among 20 applicants representing 16 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 announced during the NJAS Awards Ceremony. The Auxiliary has awarded these scholarships for more than 50 years.

The recipients for 2012 are:

Corbin Yon

Corbin Yon, Ridge Spring, S.C., is the first-place winner of the young men’s scholarship and will receive \$1,400.

Corbin, voted “Most Likely to Succeed” by his fellow graduates of Ridge Spring-Moneta High School, is the son of Kevin and Lydia Yon. As the youngest of three children, Corbin says he didn’t have a lot of opportunity to exhibit leadership at the family’s farm until his older siblings left for college two years ago.

“Part of that is because, like older siblings do, they were always bossing me around, but in their absence it was often a necessity that I step up at the farm,” he says. “I am very involved in the day-to-day activities on the farm, such as checking, feeding, hay and silage production, fencing and grazing management.”



Corbin Yon

In addition to his responsibilities at the family farm, Corbin served as team captain of his high school baseball and football teams. He completed 90 hours of training to become a full member of the Ridge Spring Volunteer Fire Department.

Corbin has participated in 4-H judging competitions for 10 years, and was a member of the 2010 team that won first place at the state competition and was able to continue to the national event.

“This will sound strange,” Corbin says, “but I count the development of my work ethic and knowing the importance of responsibility as one of my personal Angus accomplishments, much more so than any award or ribbon I have won.”

Corbin’s main career goal after graduating from college is to return to the family farm and help in its management and expansion.

“An ambition that I have in the far future is to raise my children in the same manner [in which] I was raised,” Corbin says.

Cody Theis

Cody Theis, Leavenworth, Kan., is the second-place winner of the young men’s scholarship and will receive \$1,300.

Cody has been active as president of the Happy Hollow 4-H Club for two years; president of the Northeast Kansas Junior Angus Association for four years; and district director, reporter and membership director of the Kansas Junior Angus Association.

Successful in the showing at the state, regional and national level, Cody most recently showed the reserve grand champion bred-and-owned bull in the 2012 Kansas Futurity Junior Show. He has attended Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) and Raising the Bar conferences, and has been successful in livestock judging as a member of the Pleasant Ridge FFA.

Growing up on a diversified family farming operation that involves crop production, a farrow-to-finish swine operation and a registered Angus cow herd, Cody has been actively involved in all three of these phases of production agriculture.

“For the past few years I have been responsible for show cattle selection, breaking, feeding and daily care,” Cody says. “I assist in the vaccination process, estrous detection, sire selection and daily care and feeding in the cattle operation in addition to my show cattle responsibilities.”



Cody Theis

The graduate of Pleasant Ridge High School will pursue a degree in animal science from Kansas State University with a minor in pre-pharmacy this fall. He plans to attend pharmacy school at the University of Kansas.

“If I pursue a career in pharmacy, I plan to remain active in agriculture by maintaining my Angus cow herd,” Cody says. “I want to emphasize the show cattle segment and help Angus youth with their heifer projects and encourage them to participate in as many NJAS contests and activities as possible.”

Cody is the son of Gerald Theis and Tina Casella.

Leo Kruse

Leo Kruse, Rudd, Iowa, is the third-place winner of the young men’s scholarship and will receive \$1,200.

Leo, the son of Terry and Allison Kruse, has been a member of the Rocky Ramblers 4-H Club for nine years, serving as president for two years and serving as reporter, treasurer and president of the Osage FFA chapter during his four years of membership.

Successful in the showing at the county, state, regional and national levels, Leo showed the grand champion steer at the



Leo Kruse

2007 NJAS and the grand champion bred-and-owned heifer at the 2008 NJAS.

"I am a competitor at heart, and everything I do I strive to win," Leo says. "I'd never felt so rewarded for all of the rinsing, brushing and blowing until 2007, when I won grand champion steer at junior nationals in Oklahoma."

Leo has also been successful in FFA livestock judging, placing first (in a tie) and fourth overall in the 2011 state contest. He has been a member of the Iowa Junior Angus Association since 2002, a member of the Iowa Angus Association since 2008 and a member and officer of the North Central and Northeast Iowa Junior Angus associations, serving as secretary and a worker for the team hosting the 2008 NJAS in Iowa. Leo has been a member of the Iowa Junior Beef Breeds Association, representing the Angus breed for four years.

In addition to showing at NJAS, Leo has participated in the quiz bowl, livestock judging, mentoring and photo contests, and he was part of the team that placed first in team fitting in 2009.

"Growing up around cattle has given me many experiences all the way from preparing heifers for shows to pulling calves in January," Leo says. "At times it seems like a lot of work, but I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Jacob Heimsoth

Jacob Heimsoth, son of Scott and Rebecca Heimsoth, Cameron, Mo., received the fourth place scholarship and \$1,100.

Jacob, a graduate of Lathrop High School and four-year varsity golf team member, has been involved in the FFA since 2008, has been a member of the Quad County Cattlemen, Clinton County 4-H Council, Lathrop 4-H Chapter, Missouri Junior Cattlemen, and vice president and president of the Keystone Willing Workers 4-H Club.

He has had success at local, state and national shows, and has competed in the quiz bowl, cook-off and team fitting contests at the NJAS.

"I have been involved in the Angus business my entire life," Jacob says. "I am involved in breeding, nutrition and

management of our herds on a daily basis."

Jacob plans to attend Northwest Missouri State University to obtain a degree in agriculture science. He is interested in the production side of the industry and would like to learn more about artificial insemination (AI), embryo transfer (ET), ultrasound technology and all they have to offer, for his own herd and those of others.

"My Angus cattle career started at a very young age," Jacob says. "I was extremely small and very shy. I wish I could thank each and every person who took me by the shoulder as I walked out of my class in last place and told me that I did a good job and to keep working hard.

"I will be an advocate for the beef industry by positively promoting it to consumers. I feel beef safety, production techniques, animal care, environmental stewardship and nutrition are all important areas that people need to learn about and understand so there is no question that we as producers are providing quality products while maintaining our ethics and environment," Jacob adds.

Joshua Scott

Joshua Scott, Loranger, La., is the fifth-place winner of the young men's scholarship and will receive \$1,000.

Joshua, the son of Julius and Monette Scott, plans to get a degree in agronomy and/or animal nutrition and work for a milling co-op as a sales and service representative working on feed rations and fertilizer mixes, and, maybe, as a regional manager for the American Angus Association someday.

Joshua earned second place in the NJAA/*Angus Journal* photography contest in his age division at the NJAS in 2007, 2008 and 2010, and took first place in 2011 for his photos in the Around the Farm or Ranch and People divisions.

He also sees himself working on his family's Angus farm and continuing to show cattle. Joshua has been very successful in the showing on the state and national level, showing the third-place owned heifer and being a member of the first-place herdsman team for 16-30 head from Louisiana at the 2011 NJAS in Harrisburg, Pa.

"I am currently working with my FFA chapter on a livestock judging team, serving as the coach for the beef portion of the contests," he says. "I would never have been able to serve in such a capacity if it were not for my own Angus cattle and showing experiences."

A member of the Louisiana Junior Angus Association (LJAA) since 2008, Joshua decided three years ago to sponsor a special Friendship Award to be presented every year during the LJAA banquet that is in conjunction with the Louisiana State University (LSU) State Livestock Show.

"With help from my family, I created a simple nomination application that fellow LJAA members can complete and submit to nominate an LJAA member that they have observed being a great leader and friend to fellow juniors," Joshua says. "I plan to continue this award even after my graduation in 2012."

Lauren Grimes

Lauren Grimes, daughter of John and Joanie Grimes, Hillsboro, Ohio, is the first-place winner of the young women's scholarship and will receive \$1,400.

Lauren, a successful showman at all levels, showed the grand champion bred-and-owned heifer at the 2005 Ohio Junior Angus Preview Show, the 2006 Ohio State Fair and the 2009 Ohio Junior Angus Preview Show. She showed the grand champion Angus heifer at the 2010 and 2011 North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), and was champion senior showman at the 2011 Ohio State Fair.

"Over the years I have learned that I have a knack for helping and leading others," Lauren says. "I always make sure to pay special attention to the quiet kids who are always off by themselves, mainly because I used to be one of them. I like to help them because I know how they feel, and a leader I once knew took the time to help me."

Through the years, Lauren has participated in the NJAS quiz bowl, poster, livestock judging, photography, team fitting, team sales, prepared public speaking and cook-off contests.



Lauren Grimes



Joshua Scott



Jacob Heimsoth

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Lauren has been accepted into Ohio Northern University's College of Pharmacy. She plans to graduate in 2018 with a major in pharmacy and pursue a doctorate. Though she will start her career in the human medical field, she hopes one day to find her way back into the agricultural side of medicine.

"After completing my education and starting my career, I hope to find a farm of my own where I can continue to raise my own herd of Angus cattle," Lauren says. "I also hope to have started a family by this time, because I want to raise my children in the same industry that made me who I am today."

Esther McCabe

Esther McCabe, Elk City, Kan., is the second-place winner of the young women's scholarship and will receive \$1,300.

The daughter of Randy and Varee McCabe, Esther has been successful in local, state, regional and national shows. She has participated in the photography, poster, quiz bowl, graphic design, writing and team sales contests and in the mentoring program at the NJAS. She has been most successful in prepared and extemporaneous public speaking, winning first place in both contests in her age division at the 2011 NJAS.



Esther McCabe

Esther has been active in 4-H and FFA, and has served as treasurer and as Miss Kansas Angus for the Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA). She hopes to serve the KJAA as president one day. She remembers looking up to the older members of the KJAA, and now that she is the older member, Esther tries to be the role model she always wanted.

"Being in charge of a group of people and knowing they are relying on me to do my job so, as a whole, we can all succeed is one of the best feelings I have ever experienced," Esther says.

She will continue her education at Butler Community College this fall, and then transfer to Kansas State University where she will major in chemistry. Once she has a bachelor's degree, Esther hopes to attend pharmacy school.

In addition to her pharmacy practice, Esther would like to have a small herd of Angus cattle.

"One day I would like to be a part of the Kansas Angus Association and help to make a difference in the lives of generations to come," Esther asserts. "If I ever have kids, I would like for them to have the opportunity to show Angus cattle."

Tylee Jo Williams

The daughter of Ty and Nikolyn Williams, Clarendon, Texas, Tylee Jo is the third-place young women's scholarship winner and will receive \$1,200.



Tylee Jo Williams

Active in the Texas Junior Angus Association, Tylee Jo has served as secretary, second vice president, first vice president and is the 2012 president. She was the 2010 Miss Texas Angus and says one of the most fulfilling things she did during her reign was helping the Texas CattleWomen with the annual Beef-A-Thon for muscular dystrophy.

Tylee Jo has had success in the showing at every level, showing the grand champion cow-calf pair at the 2011 Texas Junior Angus Association State Show, the grand champion heifer in the open show at the 2012 New Mexico State Fair, and being named champion showman at the Fort Worth Stock Show in 2012.

She plans to attend Texas Tech University and major in agricultural communications, minoring in Spanish and agricultural economics with an emphasis in political science.

"I am very interested in working in Washington, D.C., after college for a lobbyist in order to utilize my ranching background and agricultural upbringing for the betterment of our industry," Tylee Jo says. "As a nation we may feed the world, but the world doesn't always appreciate that fact, nor do they want to recognize the importance of agriculture. I want to help correct that, and working in the political arena is a way to do it."

The drought in Texas made for some difficult, life-changing decisions for her family, and Tylee Jo had to change high schools her senior year.

"The last five years have been hard for my family," says Tylee Jo. "I have come to appreciate the close unit we are and how their involvement in the Angus industry has been integral in keeping food on the table and a roof over our heads."

Maci Lienemann

Maci Lienemann, Princeton, Neb., is the fourth-place female scholarship winner and will receive \$1,100.

"Hosting a cattle show in my family's



Maci Lienemann

living room as an optimistic 3-year-old is one of my earliest childhood memories," Maci says. "It has been my dream for as long as I can remember to be a successful Angus producer and showman."

Successful in the showing at the county, state, regional and national level, Maci has been a participant in the quiz bowl, photography, prepared public speaking and team sales contests at the NJAS.

Maci is the vice president of the Nebraska Junior Angus Association and is the president of the Norris FFA Chapter and the Lone Star 4-H Club. In addition to her responsibilities in developing, managing and marketing her own herd of 20 registered Angus cattle, Maci was a varsity letter winner and member of a district champion and state-qualifying girls basketball team and an academic all-conference and letter-winning member of the Norris girl's golf team.

"I have prepared myself to be a successful young adult by setting goals, monitoring progress toward those goals and employing various self-regulation and motivational strategies to ensure my success, and additionally advance my herd and the Angus breed," Maci says. "My academic goal is to obtain an advanced degree in animal science research, specifically focused on advancing genetics within the livestock industry."

The daughter of Trevor and Torri Lienemann would like to work at a research institution and contribute to the current body of genetic research. She would also like to hold an office in a leading industry organization such as the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the American Angus Association



or the American Society of Animal Science (ASAS).

Andrea Foore

Andrea Foore, Seven Valleys, Pa., is the fifth-place female scholarship winner and will receive \$1,000.

Andrea has been an active member of the Pennsylvania Junior Angus Association, serving as director, secretary, vice president, historian, and this year as president. She has been a Pennsylvania Angus princess for two years. Andrea has also served as secretary and is the current president of the York County 4-H Club.



Andrea Foore

As a member of the host state for the 2011 NJAS, she was on the Executive Committee, as well as the junior chair for the Decorating

Committee. Presented at the Pennsylvania Angus Breeders Show to a junior member who provides extra assistance, Andrea is proud to be the only person who has received the Golden Pitchfork Award twice.

Successful in the showing at every level, Andrea has enhanced her leadership skills through participation in LEAD and Raising the Bar conferences. She has participated in the creative writing and livestock judging, team fitting and cook-off contests at NJAS.

“I am a fourth-generation black Angus breeder, and I have been showing black Angus cattle since I was 7 years old,” Andrea says. “I enjoy whenever I place well with a

bred-and-owned heifer or steer because it is home-bred and -raised. I have sold heifers and steers to kids in our local community, the state, and even some to Maryland. The part I enjoy most is helping them with the animals and teaching them skills they can use for their future projects. Of course, if they win with an animal that I bred, it makes me proud.”

Andrea, the daughter of Mark and Christine Foore, will attend Pennsylvania State University in the fall to pursue a degree in advertising and public relations with a minor in agricultural communications.



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