

AUXILIARY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS AT NJAS

Auxiliary announces scholarships to five girls, five boys in Des Moines, Iowa.

by *Linda Evans*, assistant editor

The American Angus Auxiliary and its supporters set 10 qualifying junior Angus members on the path to excellent career performance when they announced the winners of \$17,000 in scholarships during the 2017 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Des Moines, Iowa, July 14.

The Auxiliary awards scholarships annually to five qualifying young men and five qualifying young women, chosen this year from among 26 applicants. 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.

In 1967 the American Angus Association asked the Auxiliary for help in selecting a National Angus Queen. At the Auxiliary's annual meeting that year, the membership voted to package the first-place scholarship winner and the National Angus Queen, making Sharon (Harrold) Sommers of Indiana the first queen.

In 1973 the Auxiliary membership voted to change the name, and Kathy Votaw of Nebraska became the first young woman to be known as Miss American Angus.

Until 1980, Miss American Angus was always the first-place girl's scholarship winner. In consideration that some of the scholarship winners would prefer not to compete, in 1980, the selection of Miss American Angus was a contest for the first time among the female scholarship applicants who had indicated they would like to be Miss American Angus.

This year, Caroline Cowles, Rockfield, Ky.; Haley Greiman, Perry, Iowa; Claire Hawthorne, Westby, Wis.; Kallie Knott, Laotto, Ind.; and Lydia Dance, Hillsboro, Ohio, have chosen to compete for the title at the Angus Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, in November.

The scholarship recipients for 2017 follow.

Cale Hinrichsen

"Being involved in junior Angus associations has allowed me to work on time management and teamwork. Initially, when



Cale Hinrichsen
first place

taking on several projects, I would try to accomplish all my tasks alone or at the same time. Working with other members of the association lets one break up the tasks, get more people involved and produce better results," says Cale Hinrichsen, first-place boy's Auxiliary scholarship winner of \$1,900.

He has served in leadership positions, including as president on the Rock Creek Junior/Senior High School Student Council and as president of the Rock Creek FFA chapter, the Northeast Kansas District FFA and the Westy Trailblazers 4-H club. Cale has served in a variety of leadership positions in his years as a member of the Kansas Junior Angus Association.

He has had significant success in the showring, showing the reserve grand champion bred-and-owned (B&O) bull at the NJAS and the reserve grand champion bull in the Kansas State Fair Open Show in 2016. He has been a member of first-place teams at the NJAS in team sales, quiz bowl, the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off and team marketing.

The son of Ron and Lynne Hinrichsen, Westmoreland, Kan., believes one of the most important lessons he has learned from being involved with junior Angus programs is how to give back. He says many people have helped him along the way to take care of his cattle, teach him better showmanship skills or become involved in a community service project.

"It is easy to get lost in the moment of competition and think it is all about you,"

Cale admits. "However, it is far more satisfying and imperative to give back. Being involved in the yearly community service projects through our state and national associations allows me to see how we can influence another person's life through service."

His career goals include pursuing a dual degree in agriculture economics or business and agriculture communications at the undergraduate level, and then to attend law school with an emphasis on agriculture laws and policies. He hopes to join a law firm that specializes in agricultural issues so he can advocate for policies that benefit agriculture.

Jake McCall

Jake McCall, son of Thomas and Sara McCall, Staunton, Va., is the winner of the second-place boy's scholarship in the amount of \$1,800.

Jake credits Will Fiske, former National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) member, with helping him overcome his shyness and step



Jake McCall
second place

out of his comfort zone. He says Will encouraged him to make connections and meet new people while they were at regional and national shows.

"I can truly say the National Junior Angus Association has helped me develop as a person at every turn," Jake says. "It has been a defining experience from the beginning, and I hope to give back in the future to the organization that has done so much for me."

The Riverheads High School graduate has served as a leader in the Riverheads FFA, winning the Star Greenhand and chapter scholarship awards individually while serving in a variety of officer roles. He has been a member of the livestock, meats and stockman's teams for the Augusta County

4-H Livestock Club, and was a member of the team that judged at the Royal Highland Show at the World Angus Forum in 2017.

In addition to community, civic and church activities, Jake has served the Virginia Junior Angus Association (VJAA) in numerous ways as director, secretary and president, and as an active committee member for fundraising and shows. A junior premier exhibitor and premier breeder at the Virginia Angus Breeders' Show where he led the champion and reserve champions in 2014, he was also the reserve champion senior showman at the 2016 Virginia State Fair Open Angus Show. Jake was the first-place junior division Chef's Challenge winner in the 2015 Auxiliary-sponsored All-American CAB® Cook-Off, and on winning sales and quiz bowl teams in 2011.

"In the future, I hope to have my own farm along with a job in either beef nutrition or livestock marketing," Jake says. "It is my hope to breed high-quality Angus seedstock and market purebred bulls to other producers, as well as quality show heifers. I hope to be very active in my state Angus association, as I believe a strong breed association is important to the success of a breed and its members."

Ryan Callahan

Ryan Callahan, Edmond, Okla., is the third-place boy's scholarship winner of \$1,700. The son of Jarold and Jennifer Callahan says he has interests in the Angus



Ryan Callahan
third place

business, sales management, politics, and policy and law. He plans to attend Oklahoma State University to pursue a degree in agricultural business.

"Regardless of what I eventually decide to do on a

day-to-day basis, I plan to be involved in the agricultural industry and to be an advocate for rural America and the importance of agriculture," Ryan says.

He is the current president of the Oklahoma Junior Angus Association (OJAA) and has shown B&O champions at state, regional and national shows. He has won the boy's Silver Pitcher award four times and was named Premier Junior Exhibitor at the 2014, 2015 and 2016 NJAS. Ryan is president of the

Oklahoma Junior Cattlemen's Association and is active in 4-H.

Ryan says that being a member of the OJAA has helped him overcome being shy by providing an environment where involvement is encouraged and rewarded, making everyone feel like they are on "Team Angus." He says the mentoring program was a great first exposure to all of the activities and opportunities offered at NJAS, and as he got older he took advantage of many of the activities while not realizing he was developing communication and leadership skills.

Ryan says he knew the other kids from his state pretty well, but after spending entire weeks helping each other with their cattle, participating on teams together and just hanging out in the barns at NJAS, he has developed friendships that will last a lifetime.

In addition to academic achievements at Casady High School, Ryan served as captain of the varsity football and basketball teams, with his team winning the Southwest Preparatory Conference championship in basketball in 2017.

"I plan to remain very active in NJAA through LEAD (Leaders Engaged in Angus Development conference), NJAS and other activities through my remaining eligibility," Ryan says. "Once that is over, I plan to shift gears and be active in our state association and the American Angus Association by participating in the Annual Convention and volunteering in any way to help give back."

Jack Henderson

"I prefer to work independently; this is a weakness when a task is too large for me to accomplish on my own," says Jack Henderson, winner of the boy's fourth-place \$1,600 scholarship.

"It is important when working as a team to trust the other members of the team to do their job. Working as a team with other juniors on a task like fitting has helped me to understand that trust, communication and hard work will lead to success."

The son of Chad and Becky Henderson, Burlington, Wis., has been accepted to the University of Wisconsin Business School with a major in actuarial science, which is a combination of mathematics and statistics that is used to assess risk in insurance, finance and other businesses.

Jack says he came into the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association as a shy and quiet 9-year-old who served in various offices. In 2011 he was eligible to be an officer and was

unsure if he was ready for the responsibility. With older members of the officer team helping him, he served as fundraising director. Now, as the vice president/treasurer



Jack Henderson
fourth place

and the junior chair for food and meals for the 2018 NJAS, he says he mentors the new members the same way.

A successful showman, Jack led the grand and reserve grand B&O heifer at the 2015 Wisconsin

Junior Angus Show and the grand champion B&O heifer at the 2016 Wisconsin State Fair. At the 2010 NJAS, he was a part of first-place fitting and judging teams.

Jack is also a leader in the Clearview 4-H Club, a member of the student council, a varsity football player and National Honor Society treasurer at Catholic Central High School.

As for his future, Jack says, "I plan to stay involved in my parents' show cattle operation. My sister is quite a bit younger and can show for many more years. I plan to have a very small hobby farm of Angus cows once I've completed my education and have established myself. When I have children that are old enough to show, we will begin to show Angus cattle across the Midwest, as I do now."

Baxter Knapp

Baxter Knapp, Bloomfield, Iowa, is the recipient of the fifth-place boy's scholarship in the amount of \$1,500. He is the son of



Baxter Knapp
fifth place

Brian and Karla Knapp and plans to attend Illinois Central College, where he will be a part of the Agricultural Transfer program and a member of the livestock judging team. After graduating from Illinois

Central, he will transfer to a four-year university and double major in animal science and agriculture business.

"Once I finish college, I hope to come back

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to the family farm and continue raising Angus cattle while having a job in sales, working for an animal supply company," Baxter says. "I hope to someday run my own show cattle operation where I can sell elite show heifer prospects to compete on the state and national level."

Baxter has had a successful show career, leading the supreme champion B&O heifer for two years in a row at the 2013-2014 Northeast/North Central Iowa Angus Show and the reserve champion heifer and reserve champion bull for multiple years at the Southeast Iowa Angus Show. He placed in the NJAS creative writing, career development and graphic design contests. He won second overall in the NJAS photo contest and his Cook-Off team placed second in the senior division twice, once in 2014 and once in 2016.

In addition to his Angus activities, Baxter was involved in FFA from 2013-2017 as reporter, vice president and president while earning Greenhand, chapter and state degrees. A member of 4-H from 2009-2017, he served as vice president for four years and on the fundraising and community service committees. He is a member of the Iowa Junior Beef Breeds Association, the Davis County Cattleman's Association and the Iowa Cattleman's Association.

"Before I was involved in the Angus association, I was a very shy kid," Baxter says. "This all changed when I had the opportunity to attend the LEAD conference. This experience showed me that putting myself out there and meeting new people was not that hard. All I had to do was walk up to someone and introduce myself; soon after we would be talking about cattle or something else, and, before I knew it, I had made a new friendship that would last a lifetime."

Caroline Cowles

The first-place girl's scholarship in the amount of \$1,900 was awarded to Caroline Cowles, Rockfield, Ky. The daughter of Gil and Mary Cowles graduated with a 4.0 grade-point average from Ensworth High School and plans to attend Oklahoma State University majoring in animal science with a focus in biotechnology and a minor in microbiology. She would like to pursue pharmacy school after college.

"I understand there are other majors I could be in to get my prerequisites for pharmacy school; however, I am choosing this route because it keeps me in the College

of Agriculture," Caroline explains. "I am wanting that agriculture degree on my diploma. With that, I could go numerous directions, and not just to pharmacy school."



Caroline Cowles
first place

Caroline has had great success in the showing, leading the grand champion in the B&O division at the 2015 Kentucky State Fair and at the 2015 All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity. She led the grand champion in the owned division at the 2016 Kentucky State Preview and the reserve grand champion at the 2016 Kentucky State Fair.

She has competed in the extemporaneous speech, judging, Cook-Off and quiz bowl contests at the NJAS. She says being a member of the Kentucky Junior Angus Association and the NJAA has taught her not to procrastinate, a former weakness. She says holding an office in an organization where people are depending on you to have your report done or have your minutes ready is a big job and one that cannot be done well if time and attention are not given.

Caroline has earned first place in showmanship at the Kentucky State Fair numerous times, and at the Eastern Regional and All-American Angus Breeders' Futurity shows. She is the current vice president of the Kentucky Junior Angus Association after having served as reporter, secretary and queen.

In addition to her academic success in high school, Caroline was a member of the girl's All-State Tournament basketball team and team captain. She has been active in the South Warren FFA and is the current president of the Warren County 4-H Club.

"Recently, I have had numerous conversations with my parents about the cost of various things," Caroline says. "These things range from a good replacement heifer to the water bill for our sale barn. The experience I am getting with my parents and our farm right now will better prepare me for the day I begin an annual bull or female sale."

Caroline says raising Angus cattle on her own farm has always been her dream. She plans to have an Angus farm of her own once she is done with school. In addition, she plans

to continue to be involved with the American Angus Association and the Angus Auxiliary when she has aged out of the junior association. She says people continuing to support and advocate for the Angus breed, and the cattle industry as a whole, will help the Association continue to be the best beef organization in the world and will keep the cattle industry at the top of its game.

Haley Greiman

Haley Greiman, Perry, Iowa, received the second-place girl's scholarship in the amount of \$1,800. The daughter of Kurt and Tina Greiman attended Dallas Center-Grimes High School where she earned a 4.0 GPA and was a varsity member of the track and



Haley Greiman
second place

volleyball teams, and served as the secretary of the Key Club and as co-president of the National Honor Society. She is the current vice president of the Iowa Junior Angus Association after having served as historian, secretary and princess. She was a member of the hospitality committee for the 2017 NJAS through the Iowa Angus Association.

"My job as royalty, as an officer, and as an older member of the association has been to be a good role model for the new members and to encourage those younger members to grow and expand their involvement in the association," Haley says. "My goal is to be a positive influence so they will be good role models as they grow up, while making sure the Iowa Junior Angus Association will remain strong for all future members."

A leader in the showing, Haley led the champion B&O steer at the 2015 Iowa Southern Angus Preview, the 2015 Southeast Iowa Angus Preview and the 2015 Eastern Iowa Angus Preview shows. In addition to her Angus activities, she is the current president of the Sugar Grove Sunshine 4-H Club after serving as historian, treasurer, assistant secretary, vice president and member and chair of various committees. She won the Beef Award as a member of the Dallas County 4-H Club in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

She plans to continue to meet more people by attending more LEAD and Raising the Bar

conferences and continuing to be a voting delegate. She would like to give back to the juniors in the future and continue to help them learn and grow.

“If I get the opportunity, I would like to run for the National Junior Angus Board,” Haley says. “My dad was a ‘Green Coat,’ and I look up to him as a role model for his hard work and passion toward the Angus industry.”

Haley plans to attend Iowa State University and major in chemical engineering.

Claire Hawthorne

Claire Hawthorne, Westby, Wis., received the third-place girl’s scholarship in the amount of \$1,700. The daughter of Jim and Kim Hawthorne is the current president of



Claire Hawthorne
third place

the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association, the Wisconsin Angus ambassador and queen, and the Wisconsin Junior chairman for the gifts and awards committee for the 2018 NJAS.

“Perhaps the most important lesson I have learned is that actions speak louder than words,” Claire says. “I strive to maintain an image of professionalism and approachability. While maintaining my own thoughts and ideas and respecting the thoughts and ideas of all, together, we leave behind something bigger than each of us.”

Claire is the current president of the Westby FFA, earning the Greenhand and Star Farmer awards. She earned the first-place award for her supervised agricultural experience in beef entrepreneurship in Wisconsin’s Section Three in 2016 and 2017. She is the current president of the Nerison 4-H Club, after having served as the secretary.

At Westby High School Claire was a varsity track and field participant; a member of the Powerlifting Club, taking fifth place at the state meet; played lead baritone, alto and soprano saxophone, lead tenor saxophone and was a state qualifier in 2017 as a member of the school Polka band.

A successful showman at the county, state and national levels, Claire led the reserve champion owned Angus heifer at the 2016 Wisconsin Junior Angus State Show while being named reserve champion senior

showman. At the Wisconsin State Open Angus Show, Claire led the reserve champion Futurity heifer. She received the Roger Krue Memorial Award at the Southwest Wisconsin Angus Classic and was also named the champion senior showman.

Claire plans to attend Iowa State University, majoring in agriculture education with a minor in agricultural business.

“Growing up surrounded by many leaders, it was easy for me to accept a position as a follower,” Claire says. “Through my involvement with the Wisconsin Junior Angus Association, I have learned to be an adaptive leader with the ability to recognize the potential in each and every member of the group.”

Kallie Knott

Kallie Knott, daughter of Robert and Rebecca Knott, Laotto, Ind., was awarded the fourth-place girl’s scholarship in the amount of \$1,600.

Kallie is a champion showman, having won accolades at the 2010 Indiana State Fair; the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Indiana Angus



Kallie Knott
fourth place

Preview shows; and the 2015 Northern Indiana Angus Show. She led the reserve grand champion female at the 2015 Northern Indiana Angus Show, the supreme champion at the 2015 Indiana Angus Preview

Show, the grand champion B&O female at the 2016 Western Regional and the grand champion Angus female at the Indiana State Fair Open Show.

She has been the 2016-2017 vice president of the Indiana Angus Association after having served as a reporter, princess and as the junior co-chair of the NJAS in Indiana in 2016. She is a board member and on the awards committee for the Indiana Junior Beef Cattle Association, the vice president of the Garrett High School FFA and received the Beef Leader Award as a member of the Allen County 4-H Club.

“You may not have everything you want, but you have everything you need,” Kallie says, quoting her grandfather, Rich Ward. “I knew if I put all that I had to offer into the daily work of my Angus herd that I would reap the rewards. Banners? Money? No,

memories are endless and are what count,” Kallie says.

In her high school career, Kallie served as president of the National Honor Society, was president of her class and on the prom and homecoming committees, was secretary of the student council and a member of the spelling and math academic team.

Kallie plans to attend Purdue University and pursue an animal science degree before applying to a school of veterinary medicine.

“I want to launch my career by working as a veterinarian, tending to animals in need of medical attention and advocating for prosperous farms and the livestock industry,” Kallie says. “I want to personally give back to the livestock industry by continuing the Angus genetics within my herd and opening my own practice.”

Lydia Dance

Hillsboro, Ohio, is home to Lydia Dance, who received the fifth-place girl’s scholarship for \$1,500. The daughter of Henry and Barbara Dance will be attending Oklahoma State University with plans to major in agribusiness with a pre-law option and a political science minor. After completing her bachelor’s degree she will be applying to law



Lydia Dance
fifth place

school and will continue her education in agriculture law.

Lydia is the current president of the Ohio Junior Angus Association, having served as queen and treasurer. She is the chair of the

awards, gifts and queens committee for the 2018 Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show, which will be hosted in Ohio. A successful showman at the state and national level, Lydia showed the reserve champion B&O heifer at the 2015 Ohio Junior Angus Association Preview Show and at the 2016 Tennessee State Fair Junior Angus Show. She has competed in the quiz bowl, livestock judging and team sales contests at the NJAS and was a mentor at the show in 2016.

“I am a life member of the Angus Auxiliary,” Lydia says. “The Auxiliary women represent the kind of woman I want to be. I look forward to participating in the mentor program and giving back through the

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Auxiliary for all the NJAA has done for me.”

In addition to her Angus activities, Lydia has served as secretary and vice president of the Fab Five 4-H Club. She also earned the Greenhand Award and was on the ag sales team as a member of the Hillsboro FFA. She is a member of the National Honor Society at Hillsboro High School, the Highland County Junior Leaders community service group and

a member of the community service group at Saint Mary’s Episcopal Church.

“Picture the little girl always standing behind her mama, as quiet as a little mouse, actually being nicknamed Mouse,” Lydia says. “When I was little, I felt more comfortable being alone. All it took to become more of an extrovert was a 1,200-pound Angus heifer and getting involved. The NJAA and the past

nine years of shows, contests, conferences and events have molded me into the person I am today.”



Editor’s Note: Write-ups are based on applications and do not contain participation in this year’s NJAS.