

New Faces at Angus Headquarters

by **JENA McRELL**, *digital editor* &
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The American Angus Association has a deep commitment to engaging and informing Angus breeders of all types. Caitlyn Brandt of Clear Lake, S.D., and Chelsey Smith of Hays, Kan., have joined

that mission in the Events and Education Department, and Shelby Mettlen of Lucas, Kan., has joined the team with Angus Media. All three young professionals took office at the American Angus Association



headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo.

Caitlyn Brandt

The American Angus Association recently welcomed Clear Lake, S.D., native Caitlyn Brandt to its team as the extended intern in the Events and



Caitlyn Brandt

Education Department. Brandt is a December 2015 graduate of South Dakota State University (SDSU) with bachelor's degrees in agriculture education and agricultural

business, with a minor in animal science.

Brandt kicked off her role at the 2016 National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo., and will continue her involvement in planning activities and events until mid-August. Brandt said she's looking forward to the entire experience.

"I've never been to Denver before, but from what I hear, it's a whirlwind nine days, and I can't wait to start my internship off there," she said in an interview prior to the event.

During her eight-month internship with the organization, Brandt will assist with planning and preparation for Association-sponsored shows and National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) conferences, and attend several events throughout the country. She will also work with the *Green Coats: Coast to Coast* program, assist in updating the NJAA website, contribute to the *Directions* newsletter, and assist with the National Junior Recognition Program, as well as other NJAA programs.

Brandt will assist in planning for the upcoming Raising the Bar conferences in Fayetteville, Ark., March 3-6, and Brookings, S.D., April 7-10. The deadlines to apply for these events are Feb. 1 and March 1, respectively. Visit www.njaa.info for complete details.

Brandt previously served as a summer programs assistant for Brookings County Extension in Brookings, S.D., a producer services intern for the



National Pork Board in Des Moines, Iowa, and as a financial officer intern for Farm Credit Services of America in Watertown, S.D.

Brandt admits she's been more involved in the swine industry, though her family does raise cattle. Her experience in agricultural events and education will greatly benefit the Association and help achieve its goals.

"I'm looking forward to meeting producers and young people in the industry," Brandt said. "I'm truly excited to travel to events and to see places and do things I haven't yet experienced."

Jaclyn Clark, Association director of events and education, said Brandt's focus and attention to detail will enhance the team's ability to improve its already industry-leading programs for youth and adult members.

"We're thrilled to have Caitlyn on board for the next eight months," Clark said. "Her experience with outreach and education will help further our efforts to get our members involved in Association events."

At SDSU, Brandt was involved in the SDSU Swine Club, serving as the organization's secretary from 2013-2014 and president from 2014-2015. Brandt was also a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, SDSU's Honor Society, and Agriculture Future of America (AFA).

In addition to the eight-month internship with the Events and Education Department, the Association offers four summer internships that run from May to August. Additional positions are available in events and education, communications, Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) and the *Angus Journal*. The deadline to apply for these opportunities is Feb. 5. Learn more online.



Shelby Mettlen

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Mettlen joined Angus Media Dec. 28 as assistant editor. Formally known as Angus Productions Inc. (API), the comprehensive marketing

communications firm specializes in content targeted toward America's quality-beef producers. As part of the editorial team, Mettlen will be a regular contributor to Angus Media properties, which include the *Angus Journal*, the *Angus Beef Bulletin*, the *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA*, *The Angus Report*, the *Angus Journal Daily* and a host of online information resources.

"Shelby's work ethic and desire to help

producers, combined with her writing and photography skills, make her the perfect fit to help us advance our media efforts in the years ahead," says Angus Media Editor Shauna Hermel.

Mettlen graduated from Kansas State University (K-State) in December 2014 with bachelor's degrees in animal sciences and industry, and agricultural communications and journalism. She

most recently served as a communications assistant for the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research on Sorghum and Millet at K-State, is a former writer for K-State Research and Extension, and is a freelance writer, layout designer and photographer.

"I am thrilled to have the opportunity to combine my passions for writing,

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photography and Angus cattle and to be a part of such a motivated, professional and experienced team,” Mettlen says.

As the assistant editor for Angus Media, Mettlen will be responsible for editorial production of the *Angus Journal* and *Angus Beef Bulletin*. She will also be responsible for writing original content for features

and columns included in the *Angus Journal*, the *Angus Beef Bulletin*, the *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA* and the *AJ Daily*.

Additionally, Mettlen will take part in television, radio and photography projects, and will travel to represent Angus Media and the Association at various events and conferences.

“I’m excited to start during one of the busiest times of the year for the *Journal*,” Mettlen says. “It gives me the opportunity to jump right in and learn how Angus Media and the Association serve their members. I’m so happy to be a part of that.”

Chelsey Smith

Smith is a former state secretary for the Kansas FFA Association, and most recently served as an outreach and

**Chelsey Smith**

donor events coordinator for the Kansas FFA Foundation while attending K-State. She graduated in December 2015 with a bachelor’s degree in animal sciences and industry.

“Chelsey’s passion for education and the beef cattle industry will contribute greatly to our department and organization,” says Clark. “We’re looking forward to using her talents in planning and executing events and programs throughout the year for our youth and adult members.”

Smith completed a summer internship with the American Angus Association in 2014, where she was a graduate of the Beef Leaders Institute (BLI). She served as the activities and events intern for three months, and assisted in planning the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference, and many other state and regional cattle shows.

“During my summer internship with the American Angus Association, I was very impressed with the variety of events and activities made possible to Angus members,” Smith says. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to join such a high-caliber team and be part of the organization’s mission to support the nation’s cattlemen and women.”

In her new role Smith will be responsible for developing and planning activities and educational sessions for the Association and the NJAA. That includes Association-sponsored shows and events through the Roll-of-Victory (ROV) show program, Cattlemen’s Boot Camps, Raising the Bar conferences, the NJAS, and LEAD conference.

She will also help oversee the Association’s award program, which consists of the Angus Heritage Foundation, Historic Angus Herd Awards, Century Awards and NJAA Awards.

“I am definitely ready to hit the ground running and hope to see many of our members at shows and events this winter,” Smith says.