

# Financing for the future

## Students awarded Commercial Cattlemen scholarships.

by Taylor Edwards, intern



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This summer the Angus Foundation recognized four youth in the beef industry with the Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship. This scholarship supports students in the commercial cattle industry who use, or whose family uses, Angus genetics in their breeding program.

Recipients for 2023 include:

- ▶ Bryce Hoeltzel, Olsburg, Kan.;
- ▶ Addison Hillman, Brainerd, Minn.;
- ▶ Abigail Morse, Madison, S.D.; and
- ▶ Jacee Sumpter, Branson, Colo.

Through the next several issues, the *Angus Beef Bulletin* will feature these outstanding young cattlemen, beginning with Hoeltzel.

### Eye on efficiency

Hoeltzel has accepted a livestock judging scholarship to Allen County Community College. He plans to transfer to Kansas State University (K-State), where he will major in animal science and natural resource management.

“I want to focus on improving the environmental impact of livestock production and look for ways to become more efficient in the cattle industry,” says Hoeltzel.

Earning three National Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) grants from companies that support FFA and rural agriculture, Hoeltzel has purchased livestock and operational equipment to continue expanding his knowledge while educating others.

His grants involved swine production and facility improvements to assist with structural integrity and hoof health. This knowledge of raising hogs has spurred ideas to implement in his cattle herd.

“My parents pushed me to learn about

other species to become more well-rounded in livestock management,” he says proudly.

### Positive ag experiences

Hoeltzel has spent much of his time helping put on events called Ag Education Days for inner-city, elementary-aged students who have never lived on a farm or been around livestock.

“We must educate the consumer and the next generation on the importance of having beef on the dinner table,” says Hoeltzel. “Someday, these individuals will be purchasing food, and they need to know where these products come from.”

Creating positive agricultural experiences for those outside the industry is how Hoeltzel has made such a lasting influence on younger generations.

Says Hoeltzel: “Another very fun event was the ‘Kiss the Goat’ event with my local elementary school.”

Students were given a reading challenge. When they met the challenge, teachers had to kiss a goat. It created many great memories and an ag connection for students.

### Man of character

Hoeltzel has been very active in the industry and in his high school, earning many character and leadership awards. He was captain of the football team and won the Brandon Burlsworth Character Award for his dedication to the team and strong morals.

After an extensive application process, Hoeltzel was chosen to be one of 20 students invited to attend the K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy.

“There were some really amazing students, so it was quite an honor to be selected,” he says.

While attending the leadership academy, Hoeltzel’s team earned first place for a presentation on the “Environmental Impact of Livestock Production.”

“Within the presentation we completed a skit about this topic. One person portrayed themselves as a vegan that firmly believes that livestock are harmful to the environment. Another person portrayed themselves as the complete opposite. This was put in a store setting,” says Hoeltzel. “My role was a bystander that interjected himself in the conversation stating facts about the environmental impact of owning livestock, which favored the livestock owners, of course.”

He applied for this academy because he wanted to gain more diverse knowledge about the livestock industry to bring back to his personal herd.

Says Hoeltzel: “I had the privilege of working with some of the best and brightest students and professionals in the agriculture industry.”

In addition to the leadership academy, the students toured K-State facilities. Hoeltzel says he was impressed specifically with the swine unit and the level of biosecurity in place. Although he is committed to the cattle industry, Hoeltzel believes producers can apply wisdom and knowledge from other livestock species to make improvements with their cattle.

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### Commercial scholarship

Students pursuing an undergraduate degree in animal science, agriculture, rangeland management or a technical trade, and who are seeking financial support for the cost of their education at a university, community college or trade school, are eligible to apply for the Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship available through the Angus Foundation. Selection emphasis is placed on an applicant’s knowledge of the cattle industry and their perspective of the Angus breed.

For more information on the Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship, visit <https://www.angus.org/Foundation/WhatWeDo/Youth/CommercialCattlemen>. **ABB**