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P O S T C A R D F R O M A J U N I O R



Kathryn Coleman

## Standing strong

*If it was easy everyone would do it, or at least that's the old saying we remind ourselves of.*

The agriculture industry offers kids the glory of being raised with tradition while developing a strong work ethic, establishing a passion and understanding the hard work it takes to earn a living. On another note, we also experience the lowest of the lows from the economy, long days and unforeseen costs we find ourselves facing at the end of each production season.

However, at the end of the day, every bit is worth it.

In the last few years, we have seen it all — tragic fires, severe drought and reckless tornadoes taking it all. These unforeseen wild cards are what test the agriculture industry the most. Yet they bring the industry together as a whole, united as a community, not leaving one family behind to fend for themselves.

Fires and drought, bright green rolling hills faded into the musty yellow or black burnt patches you spot as you drive on the highway. The view of semitrucks one after the next, seen hammered down with loads of hay. The truckers, going down the road or five states

away, have only one thing on their minds. They feel the urgency of each delivery, for those in desperate need of just one load to hold their herd over, and in hopes of receiving another in a month's time when they face the next scarcity, savoring every little bit possible with winter upon us.

One after another the hay trucks give light to those passing them along the road. Although many are suffering from lack of hay, there are still other farmers out there helping their own. This act of generosity touches those both in agriculture and not, and gives perspective to those with no connection to agriculture. It showcases how people will go out of their way for miles on end to contribute to those affected when they still have their own animals to feed at the end of the day.

Tornadoes we've seen this last year affected our Angus family, but standing strong together gave them strength to overcome this wild card. Our Kansas families needed us, and the Angus family stepped up to the plate. Breeders were offering

places for their cattle to reside, while others gathered clothes or items that would substitute for ones they lost. We stood together in prayer and let them know they weren't alone as they had a whole industry to fall back on.

Disasters put into perspective that we all face our own kind of challenges. Some may be larger or unforeseen, yet we learn to adapt and fall back on the outlet we all share. This binds the strength of all to help us rebuild what we may have lost.

The Angus family is like no other, and we have shared these moments of pain. The humility and gratitude we offer to one another during the tragic times is what bring us together. Angus people take care of their own. We have learned it is better to stand strong together than to be overtaken by defeat of circumstances over which we have no control.

— Kathryn Coleman

## Bronze and Silver Awards

Corbin Milberger, Inez, Texas, has earned the National Junior Angus Association's (NJAA) Bronze and Silver awards, according to Caitlyn Brandt, events and education director of the American Angus Association in Saint Joseph, Mo. Lily Williams, Keithville, La., has earned the NJAA's Silver award; and Riley Hetzel, Austin, Minn., has earned the NJAA's Bronze award.

The Bronze and Silver awards are the first two levels of the NJAA Recognition Program that began in 1972. Junior Angus breeders must apply for the awards, then meet point requirements in many areas of participation before receiving the honors. Applicants are evaluated in areas of junior Angus association activities and leadership, participation in showmanship,

contests and shows, using performance testing to improve their herd, and their progress in producing and merchandising Angus cattle.

An active member of the NJAA and the Texas Junior Angus Association, **Corbin Milberger** is the 14-year-old son of Shelley and Corey Milberger. Milberger is homeschooled and currently serves his state association as director.

He has shown at the local and state level.

From Keithville, La., **Lily Williams** is the 14-year-old daughter of Shane Williams. She currently attends Calvary Baptist Academy and serves as the director of the Louisiana Junior Angus Association.

Williams has shown at the local, state and national level. She has competed in the extemporaneous

speaking, team fitting, quiz bowl, livestock judging and Skill-a-thon contests and participated in the mentoring program at the NJAS.

**Riley Hetzel** is an 18-year-old from Austin, Minn. She is the daughter of Dallas Hetzel and attends South Dakota State, where she studies civil engineering.

In addition to the NJAA, Hetzel is an active member of the Minnesota Junior Angus Association, where she serves as treasurer.

She has shown at the local, state and national level, including the NJAS, where she has participated in the livestock judging and Skill-a-thon contests.

She has also submitted weight data to the Angus Herd Improvement Records (AHIR®).

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## 2022 Oregon State Fair Jr. Angus Show, Aug. 28, Salem



Winning top honors in showmanship (from left) are Taylor Olson, Madras, Ore., senior champion; Presley Ramey, Ridgefield, Wash., reserve senior champion; Peyton Rawe, Tillamook, Ore., intermediate champion; Fallon Gohr, Madras, Ore., reserve intermediate champion; Gunnar Gohr, Madras, Ore., junior B champion; Andrew Stoneberg, Shedd, Ore., reserve junior B champion; Cason Ricksger, Canby, Ore., junior A champion; and Addison Fleckenstein, Brownsville, Ore., reserve junior A champion.