

# JRA JUNIOR SPOTLIGHT

## JRA Contest Results

Of the many contests conducted by the JRA each year, several are judged in May and June. This year, the Essay, Powerpoint Presentation, Graphic Design, and Merit Award Program deadlines were May 1. Judging of each of these contests was done by the RAAA Board of Directors during their June Board meeting held at the National Office. The results are as follows:

### Essay Contest:

Junior Division - Colin Weidenbach, Highmore, SD

Intermediate and Senior Division - no entries

Collegiate Division: Megan Minten, New York Mills, MN - cash award \$125

### Graphic Design:

1st - Sara Hammes Stockport, IA - cash award \$50

2nd - Katlin Thorsell, Charlestown, WV - cash award \$25

3rd - Marianne Mendoza, Valley Springs, CA - cash award \$15

### Powerpoint Presentation:

1st - Marianne Mendoza, Valley Springs, CA - \$50

2nd - Katlin Thorsell, Charlestown, WV - \$25

## Merit Award Program

This was the second year of the Merit Award Program (MAP) which was designed to reward JRA members for their all-around involvements with Red Angus. The Junior Foundation designated \$500 to fund a scholarship for the winner of this contest to attend Round-Up. The JRA furthered the extent of the scholarships by offering cash awards for the second and third place winners to get to Round-Up, too.

**Beginning Division** - no applications, awards unclaimed

### Senior Division:

First Place - Marianne Mendoza, Valley Springs, CA.

Marianne receives the \$500 scholarship sponsored by the Junior Foundation to attend Round-Up.

Second Place - Amber Leaf, Jacobson, MN - Amber receives a fee waiver for Round-Up (\$275).

Third Place - Casey Mushrush, Strong City, KS - Casey receives \$100 to use toward Round-Up expenses.

As you can see, there are many financial rewards offered for these contests and programs. So, JRA members - get motivated and participate in the contests and programs provided by YOUR Association!

### CHECK OUT THE JRA ONLINE

**NEWSLETTER!** The JRA is publishing a monthly, online newsletter which can be accessed from the JRA portion of the RAAA website at: [www.redangus.org](http://www.redangus.org). The one - two page, full color newsletter highlights JRA activities, events and contest results.



## Fellow Juniors

As I end my term as your JRA President I leave you with these words of advice. Cherish each day and all that it holds to the fullest. I am telling you this because every day that comes and goes by seems to be a little bit faster than the one before. While you may not recognize it until the end of the year or for ten more years, I am certain that someday you'll realize it is true. This was my first year to recognize how the pace had changed. I got caught up in graduation, summer shows and moving off to college, and with all of my life changes I never took the time to step back and say "Wow, today is a great day!" So depending on your age you may relate a little bit differently to what I am saying, but just wait and someday you will see exactly what I am talking about.

For those of you whom I have met, it has been great seeing all of you from time to time and I thank you for all of the memories! For those of you who I have not met, I would like to thank you for everything that you have done for the JRA, big or small, your contributions still count - whether it be entering one of our many contests, registering an animal, or exhibiting Red Angus at state and national shows and sales. I hope to some day meet you.

This past year has been great, not only for me but for the JRA as well. While I had to make many changes and had many new things in my life, I wouldn't take any of it back. I started out at the National Junior Show in Des Moines, Iowa where we had a record number of juniors and cattle! As soon as the show was over, I headed off to college to begin my freshman year at Black Hawk East. We also broke the JRA fundraising record for dollars earned in one year! Congratulations Juniors on a great year.

As this year wraps up with Round-Up in Minnesota, I would like to thank everyone for their help and support. Without the generosity of the breeders and parents and the participation of the juniors, the JRA would not be where we are today. I would also like to thank the RAAA, Dawn Bernhard and my fellow board members - without all of you we wouldn't have such a great junior program.

It has been an honor being your leader in 2005 and 2006. I have made many new friends and had so many new experiences as I traveled with the JRA. I encourage each and every one of you to be a leader in your own way and to participate as much as you can. Just think, someday you could write this letter. Oh the possibilities! Good luck, God bless and thank you again.

Sincerely  
Sara M. Hammes

# JRA 2006 Scholarship Winners

**Six young people will be recipients of Red Angus Scholarships this year. The selection committee was comprised of Chairman Tyler Sonstegard, Will Andras, Leonard Wood, Tracey Koester, Alaina Burt and Laura Whitley. As always, the high caliber of applicants, made for a difficult decision process.**



**Riley Scott Avery  
\$500 Red Angus  
Association of  
America  
Scholarship**

Riley Scott Avery, Redmond, Ore., is the son of Randy and Ronda Avery, and has three siblings, Renee, Ryan and Rachelle. He is a recent graduate of Redmond High School and plans on attending Oregon State University, Corvallis, Ore., majoring in Animal Science.

Riley and his family moved to the country when he was nine. He always wanted a cow, so his parents gave him a Hereford heifer for Christmas. When his grandfather found out, he gave him two pair of Red Angus cows. They fell in love with Red Angus, and now have over 20 registered Red Angus cows.

Ryan attended the 2002 JRA Roundup in Montana. In 2003, he attended the national Red Angus show at the NILE where his bred heifer was named Reserve Champion Junior Heifer. He is currently the president of the Northwest Red Angus Junior Association, and membership has increased from 14 to 24 under his leadership. He is currently serving on a committee trying to start a Junior and possible an Open Show to be held in conjunction with the Bet on Red Sale held in Reno, Nev.

Ryan has been active in beef 4H since the fourth grade, and is currently a junior leader. This has given him the opportunity to work with younger members and their projects. He joined FFA during his junior year and is active on both the leadership and judging teams.

Ryan's ultimate goal is to become a veterinarian. He hopes that on completion of his education, he can return to Central Oregon to work and continue to raise Red Angus cattle.



**Amber Boyles  
\$500 Red Angus  
Association of  
America  
Scholarship**

Amber Boyles, Denton, N.C., is the daughter of Beth Tucker and Terry Boyles and has one brother, Tanner. She has just completed her second year at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, N.C., with a major in Agriculture Education and a minor in Animal Science and Extension Education.

Amber has served as the Red Angus Representative for the NC Jr. Beef Round-Up Committee for over six years, and has been secretary, vice president, and hopes to be elected president this year. She was Vice President of the Jr. SERAA in 2003 and Secretary of the Junior Mason-Dixon Association in 2004. She has been involved with Red Angus cattle since she was born and been a member for over ten years. She has attended seven National Round Ups and been on the winning Sales Team and Quiz bowl teams several times. She plans to run for the National Board of Officers this year.

Amber was active in many different events in High School and has continued being involved in new activities in college. She is an active member of the Animal Science Club, Rodeo Club and just completed her first year on the Wolfpack Clogging Team. She attends church on a regular basis, and with the Rodeo and Animal Science Club participates in different community service projects. She has helped boy scout troops earn badges, participated in events where the proceeds go to Ag in the Classroom, and her biggest event for the year was helping with the equine rescue from the disaster of hurricane Katrina.

Amber's ambition is to become

an Agricultural Education teacher. She thinks it is a chance to teach future generations what agriculture is all about. This is the second Red Angus Scholarship she has received, and she is grateful for all that Red Angus has done for her.



**Sara Hammes  
\$500 Red Angus  
Association of  
America  
Scholarship**

Sara Hammes, Kewanee, Ill., has completed her first year at Black Hawk College East Campus, Kewanee, Ill., as an Agricultural Communications major. She is the daughter of Stuart and Kathy Gilbert and one sister, Darby Gilbert. She is a repeat winner of this prestigious scholarship.

Sara attended her first Round-up in Illinois, and in 2004 was elected to the National Junior Red Angus Board as the Public Relations Director. In 2005 she was elected as Board President and has been to the National Convention in both Dallas, Texas and Greenville, S.C., Youth Beef Industry Congress in 2006 and several National and Regional Shows.

Her involvement with the board of directors has shown her how much hard work and dedication goes into events such as a National Show. She feels one of her significant contributions has been doing whatever was necessary to get things done and help the juniors.

Red Angus has been part of Sara's life since she was five years old. The good cattle, the amazing people, the good times, and customer and consumer satisfaction are just a few reasons she has chosen to stay with Red Angus.

Sara is involved in many community organizations and is the treasurer of her college Ag Business club and is on the Livestock Judging Team. Her goal is to receive her Agricultural Communications degree from Kansas State University by 2009. Her ideal way that Red Angus would play a role in her future is if

# JRA 2006 Scholarship Winners

she continued expanding her herd and got a job at the National Office.



## **Megan Minten** **\$500 Dee** **Sonstegard** **Scholarship**

Megan Minten, New York Mills, Minn., has completed her second year at North Dakota State University, Fargo, N.D., with a major in Animal and Range Science. She is the daughter of Stephen and Jeanette Minten and has two brothers, Adam and Andrew.

Megan's parents helped her start her own Red Angus herd as an investment for her future when she was nine years old. Red Angus cattle have proved to be successful for her and her parents, so she does not plan on changing their breeding program. Her involvement with Red Angus has included exhibiting cattle, attending meetings and production sales, and participating in the Junior Red Angus program. She is currently the Junior President for Minnesota and the Minnesota Ambassador. She enjoys exhibiting her own and her family's Red Angus heifers at the Minnesota State Fair for 4-H and FFA and at the Minnesota Red Angus State Show. She was awarded a Sal Forbes Traveling Female for the North Plains Region and found this experience to be rewarding and educational.

In college, she is involved with the North Dakota State Univ. Pre-Veterinary Club, Saddle and Sirloin (Block and Bridle) Club, Bison Dairy Club, and Ceres Women's Fraternity. This past winter she exhibited a commercial heifer for Little 1 in the Saddle and Sirloin Club and helped on the Art and Ad design committees for Little 1 as well.

Megan's goals include finishing college with an Animal and Range Science major and a minor in Biotechnology. She would like to remain in the rural setting, have a career dealing with production livestock agriculture and continue rais-

ing and breeding Red Angus. She wants the breed to be a part of her future, and in return, be a part of the breed's future.



## **Marianne Mendoza** **\$500 Leonard** **Lorenzen** **Scholarship**

Marianne Mendoza, Valley Springs, Calif., is the daughter of Laurence and Sheila Mendoza and has one sister, Mariah. She recently graduated from Calaveras High School and plans to attend California State University-Chico, Chico, Calif., majoring in Animal Science.

Marianne bought her first Red Angus heifer in 1999 for \$500 from her parents. She still has that cow that has produced two steers and a great heifer. Marianne will stay with the Red Angus breed because of the calm disposition and maternal capabilities of the animals and the great people she has met and worked with.

Marianne is involved in many activities. At the Calaveras County Fair & Jumping Frog Jubilee, she won many awards in the breeding beef category. She won Champion cow/calf for five years with her cow, DZA Iona 802. Her involvement with cattle has been her FFA project and through FFA has received her Greenhand Degree, Chapter Degree, and her State Degree. Her cattle, by being her SAE, have won Sectional Proficiencies in Beef Cattle Enterprise and Agricultural Sales Enterprise, Regional Proficiency in Agricultural Sales Enterprise, and she was chosen as the Sectional Star in Agribusiness.

Marianne's ambition is to complete her Animal Science degree at CSU Chico, and then be accepted into a veterinary school, focusing on Meat Animals. She hopes to keep Red Angus in her life, and her study at CSU Chico will definitely help this because the college of agriculture owns their own Red Angus herd. Her current herd will help support her financially through college.



## **Casey Mushrush** **\$500 Red Angus** **Association of** **America** **Scholarship**

Casey Mushrush, Strong City, Kan., is planning on attending Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kan., with a major in Milling Science. He recently graduated as Valedictorian of his class at Chase County High School. Chase is the son of Joe and Connie Mushrush and has five brothers and sisters, Daniel, Laura, Cole, Chris and Maddelyn.

Chase has been involved in the Kansas Junior Red Angus Association for many years. He has served as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. For the past four years, he has exhibited a Red Angus Breeding Heifer at the Kansas Junior Livestock Show. On the National level, he has participated in the Photography and Essay Contests for the past four years. This past year he was elected to serve the Great Plains area as a member of the National JRA Board of Directors. Also this year, he won the Junior Stockgrower's Contest in Denver, Colo.

Casey was involved in many activities during High School. He has been in local 4-H since second grade, and currently serves as President. He has also been on the 4-H Council for three years, was 4-H Council Reporter and later, the 4-H Council President. He was named the first ever Chase County High School Student of the Month, was on the Principal's Honor Roll all four years, was vice-president of the National Honor Society, and involved in the Spanish Club. He is a lector at church and actively involved in community service.

Casey wants to major in Milling Science and take an option in Management. When he graduates, he would like to find a job in a rural area, possible producing cattle and horse feeds. In his career, he would like to be perceived as a hard worker and a fair boss. ■