

2018 AJSA Events

2018 AJSA National Classic



The Minnesota Junior Simmental Association and Minnesota Simmental Association are pleased to host the

2018 AJSA National Classic Minnesota State Fairgrounds

AJSA Headquarters Hotel
Radisson Hotel
Roseville, MN
800-333-333

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SPC Update



By Kaylie Huizenga
North Central Trustee

This past year was the first for the AJSA's new junior program, the Steer Profitability Contest (SPC). The SPC was created to provide members of the AJSA real-life experience with the opportunities and challenges that come with feeding out cattle in a feedlot setting. Contestants learn about the economics of the beef industry by paying for their expenses and focusing on trying to make the most profit. They are also given the opportunity to be introduced to other young beef enthusiasts, mentors, and industry advocates. The contest is based off of profitability, taking income minus expenses. This past year we had a total of 66 steers competing in the SPC. Our winning steer from Lindsey Hays made a profit of \$810 and had a 17 REA, 2.3 YG, and graded low choice. The champion pen of three steers, also from Lindsey, made a total profit of \$2,186 and had an average 14.5 REA, 2.8 YG, and graded average choice. Now it's time to be thinking about the 2017-2018 SPC!



Contestants must be an active member of the AJSA to participate. Steers born between January 15 to April 15, 2017, are eligible for this fall's SPC crop. There is no breed requirement for entry, however the animal must have one parent on file in the ASA database of any breed composition. Youth aged 8 - 21 years of age are encouraged to retain ownership on spring steer calves for entry into the 2017-2018 Steer Profitability Competition. SPC entries are due September 15, 2017, and more information can be found on the AJSA website. The SPC program is creating AJSA members that will have powerful voices as they transition from junior membership to adult participation and become leaders within the beef industry. Take the chance to join this new and exciting opportunity to feed out your cattle and gain profit in this contest! For more information about this contest visit www.simmental.org under the AJSA tab.

Literacy for Little Ones



By Michelle Helm
Vice President of Communications

Our service project for this past year was Literacy for Little Ones based out of the Batson Children's Hospital in Mississippi. Junior members were encouraged to bring books that are no longer in use to be donated to the hospital. These books are used in the neonatal unit of the hospital to give parents, family, and friends a chance to interact with the younger patients while they are staying at the hospital.

Throughout the year junior members worked to collect books in their home state. Members asked around their state association for any lightly used books that could be donated to the hospital. They then loaded up the books and headed south to Mississippi.

We are pleased to say that members brought over 750 books to Hattiesburg this summer to benefit the Children's Hospital. Members brought their books to opening ceremonies and got to show all of their hard work when walking around the ring with their state. The books were loaded on a horse-drawn wagon and paraded around the ring.

Thank you to everyone who donated books, brought them to Hattiesburg and made this year's service project a huge success! Be checking the Facebook page and the next edition of Hotwire to see this year's project.



Hotwire

October 2017

The official publication of the American Junior Simmental Association

"Funded in part by the American Simmental-Simbrah Foundation"

President's Update

Jordan Cowger, AJSA President

Hello everyone! I hope you all are settling back into your school routines and getting as excited as I am for cooler temperatures and fall majors. Despite some changes happening within the AJSA, your Junior Board is still working hard to make the association we all love even better. This summer was an exciting one for the AJSA, as we hosted four regional classics and the National Classic in a state that had never hosted one before. Ohio, Oregon, Missouri, South Dakota, and Mississippi rolled out the red carpet and I know the countdown to Minnesota is on for next year already.

One of the biggest changes made at this year's National Classic took place at the AJSA Annual Meeting, where the general membership approved a modification to the AJSA's bylaws. This changed how the membership will elect their Junior Board of Trustees in the future. With this change, all Junior Board applications will still be due on June 1st, but then if any other candidates want to run after that application date, they must submit a write-in nomination within a week of the candidate list being posted. There will be no more write-in candidates on the ballots at the National Classic. Candidates will also be required to be present at the National Classic for the



Jordan Cowger

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duration of the event to remain eligible to run. The final change states that all candidates will be scored on their application and an interview conducted at the National Classic, in addition to the popular vote of their region. I would encourage all of you who are of age to consider running for for the Junior Board, as it is one of the best opportunities to serve the breed you love and connect with even more people who share your same passion.

Another exciting change coming to the AJSA is the addition of a fifth contest. That's right, the Sire Summary quiz is making a comeback. This quiz will follow similar format, rules, and time allotment as the Cattlemen's Quiz, but cover strictly Sire Summary material. This contest will be considered an "educational contest" at both the Regional and National Classics and thus the contest requirement to compete in the cattle show will increase from 3 to 4. This means you must compete in 4 of the educational contests (Sire Summary Quiz, Cattlemen's Quiz, Livestock Judging, Sales Talk, and Public Speaking) to exhibit cattle in the show.

The last big update is that the AJSA recently hosted the first IGS Summit with the junior Gelbvieh and Shorthorn associations in Lincoln, NE, at the University of Nebraska. Everyone had a great time getting to learn more about the beef industry, IGS, and connect with not just our Simmental friends but meeting fellow Gelbvieh and Shorthorn leaders as well.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or opinions do not be a stranger. We work for you so feel free to contact any Junior Board member at any time, we would love to hear from you. I look forward to seeing all of you this fall at the PTP shows and I hope you have a wonderful fall season!

Jordan

US Natural Disasters



By Cole Liggett
Eastern Trustee

This year natural disasters have brought hardships to many cattlemen all around the country. Seeing the pictures and videos on the news and Facebook of the wildfires earlier this spring, and just recently, the tropical storm Harvey, makes my stomach hurt and heart ache for these families and ranchers.

In August, Harvey made landfall in Rockport, Texas, as a Category Four storm and was expected to stick around for days. During the beginning rainfalls, Harvey was said to be on course to break the US record for the heaviest rainfall from a tropical system. The heavy rainfall led to the immense flooding causing most of the damage along the pathway of the tropical storm.

Cattle ranchers in southeastern Texas began to move their cattle away from their homes in the coastal region and out of the path of the tropical storm Harvey. Heavy rainfall

Working Toward a Career



By Keanna Smith
Western Trustee

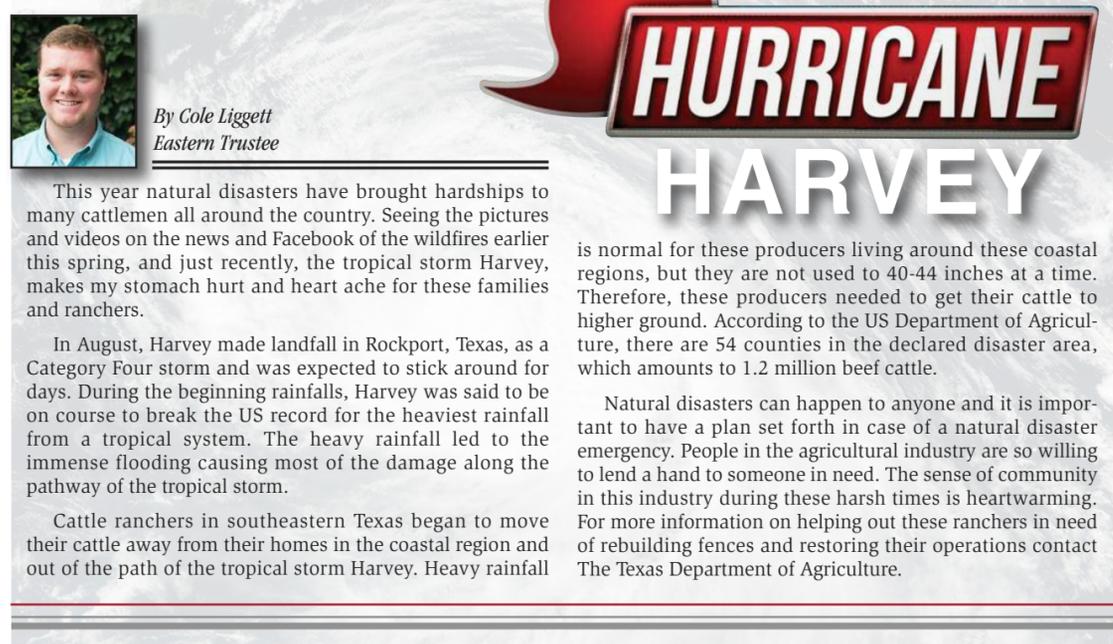
It is not every day that you can find an ag kid who wants to pursue a degree in nursing. Let me tell you it can definitely get a bit interesting from time to time. However, this summer, I was able to get in on the ag side of things and see a company and a career that interested me not only from a cattle standpoint but it was also fun to see how it related back to nursing as well.

In the first part of August I got the opportunity to go to the IGS Leadership Summit in Lincoln, NE. While we were there we toured the Neogen GeneSeek lab where genetic testing for animals from across the world gets sent. At this facility they genetic test for several reasons including ancestry in dogs, and genetic defects in cattle. It was interesting to be able to see what a huge impact these people play, not only in our ag industry but in people's everyday lives as well.



There are so many job opportunities at a company like Neogen. There are jobs that range from being a customer service rep to a lab assistant and from a data analyst to a lab tech or system

developer. There are so many job opportunities at a company like Neogen, and the educational requirements are pretty much the same across the board. To be a lab tech or a data analyst you must have a bachelor's degree in a science discipline such as chemistry or micro/molecular biology. For the customer service they require a high school diploma and prefer if you have a college degree, but this opportunity is about how much experience you have in an office and using Microsoft Excel and Word. Being a system developer requires a degree in computer and experience scripting and coding. Both of these jobs are great for anyone interested in genetics as well as the livestock industry!



is normal for these producers living around these coastal regions, but they are not used to 40-44 inches at a time. Therefore, these producers needed to get their cattle to higher ground. According to the US Department of Agriculture, there are 54 counties in the declared disaster area, which amounts to 1.2 million beef cattle.

Natural disasters can happen to anyone and it is important to have a plan set forth in case of a natural disaster emergency. People in the agricultural industry are so willing to lend a hand to someone in need. The sense of community in this industry during these harsh times is heartwarming. For more information on helping out these ranchers in need of rebuilding fences and restoring their operations contact The Texas Department of Agriculture.

AJSA Members: Where are they now – Wendy Feik Pinkerton



By Clay Sundberg
North Central Trustee

Wendy Feik Pinkerton was a member of the Illinois Junior Simmental Association along with serving on the AJSA Board of Trustees. She grew up in northern Illinois showing Simmental cattle and now resides in Champaign, Illinois where she works for Zoetis in public affairs as Senior Manager of Industry Relations.

1) Can you please explain your experiences during your time in the AJSA?

“In the mid-1970s, I served on the first Illinois Junior Simmental Association board as secretary treasurer. This was the same time that the Illinois Simmental Association hosted the “first” National Classic in Springfield. It was a valuable experience in that I was introduced to many other juniors who had similar interests, as well as gained leadership experience that has benefitted me my whole career. My activities in IJSA led to the opportunity to serve on the first AJSA board as secretary-treasurer in 1979-80, along with others on the board, including Rob A. Brown, Jana Castleberry, and Tracy Risinger.”

2) What was your most memorable moment as a junior member of the Association?

“There are so many! I treasure the friendships and acquaintances I made during my time as a junior member. One moment that is very memorable, and a bit ironic because I’m not a pageant type, is when I was crowned National Simmental Queen in 1979. I was the first, and the only, to be selected for that position. The role provided me with opportunities to travel across the country, to meet Simmental producers from every kind of farm and ranch, and to promote the cattle breed that was part of my family’s business and history.”

3) What is your current occupation and what are some of your projects within this job?

“In January 2017, I joined Zoetis in Public Affairs as Senior Manager, Industry Relations. Zoetis is the world’s leading animal health company, delivering quality vaccines and medicines, complemented by diagnostic products, genetic tests, biodevices and a range of services to its customers. Prior to my role in Zoetis, I co-owned a marketing communications agency that continues to serve food and agribusiness clients. In my current role, I work with Zoetis’ industry partners to strategically address issues and opportunities that affect all of livestock production. In a typical week, I have days when I meet and plan with organization and producer leaders and days when I participate in producer meetings or get on farms and ranches to work directly with producers to understand their issues and challenges.”

4) How do you feel the AJSA impacted you as you prepared for your career?

“My AJSA experience taught me valuable lessons in effective leadership and the value of working with a team. I also learned that no matter how much you know, it is the relationships that are indispensable in your career. Don’t overlook an opportunity to get to know someone in a new setting or with different interests. I still turn to mentors, colleagues, and friends that I met nearly 40 years ago for guidance, insight, and answers.”

5) Do you have advice for junior members whether they are just getting started or maybe finishing out their last couple year with the association?

“Say yes. You may not get back that opportunity to make a difference in the organization, the beef industry, or in someone’s life. Meet new people with the sincere intent to get to know them and their interests. Travel as much as possible and promote the Association and the cattle you appreciate.”



Clay Sundberg and Wendy Feik Pinkerton

North Central Profile: Illinois



By Emily Ivey
Eastern Trustee



The Illinois Simmental Association and the Illinois Junior Simmental Association are excited to host the 2018 North Central Regional! Illinois has hosted many Regional and National Classics in the past and feel fully prepared and ready to make this upcoming Regional one for the books! Jennifer Tarr and Sherry Adcock are heading up the quickly approaching event and have been working with the two associations to raise money and the always intense planning of the event. The very fitting theme for this year’s classic is “Lead the Breed”. This theme strongly represents where the Simmental breed as a whole is

going. Participation in Regional and National Classics are increasing every year and this theme highlights this. The theme also demonstrates how the youth of this organization are becoming leaders and are constantly pushing forward to new and greater aspects of life. The Regional Classic is tentatively set for June 13-16, 2018 in Springfield, Illinois. Jennifer Tarr states that, “The Illinois Simmental Association has a mission of working together to make a difference and hosting this classic is just one of the ways to do so.” The Associations can’t wait to host the event and look forward to seeing everyone in Springfield!



Montana Wildfires



By Michelle Helm
Vice President of Communications

With over half a million acres and counting burned across the state of Montana in recent months, to say the state is in a crisis is an understatement. Thousands of livestock producers have been affected by these constant natural disasters. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, there is currently 23 wildfires burning across the state of Montana.

Many of the fires are located in western and central Montana, affecting many acres of forests and grassland. These wildfires are a result of the crippling drought that Montana has endured over recent months. August data show that only 2.77 % of the state was in a time where they did not need moisture.

The combination of drought and wildfires have crippled many beef producers to the point of no return. No data has been collected about the effect of the fires on the beef industry as a whole, but the numbers are expected to be high.

Many of these producers are not receiving help as the US government declined the request from Montana’s legislature for financial aid, according to an NBC Montana reporter. In the aftermath, producers are already coming together to help rebuild the ranches affected.

Out of devastation, comes hope and stories of ranchers helping their fellow neighbor have poured in. Stories of ranchers bringing hay and feed for the cattle, the firefighters who have worked tirelessly around the clock to stop as much as they can, and neighbors dropping what they are doing to lend a helping hand in any way they can.

As fall is slowly approaching, Montana ranchers continue to pray for the slightest sign of precipitation. For more information on what you can do to help you can contact the Montana Stockgrowers Association.

Source: cattlenetwork.com

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