

North Carolina Junior Leads By Example

Brooke Harward named 2014 Jim Baldrige Outstanding Leader.

by *Claire Carlson*, public relations and communications intern

The Angus breed recognized one of its youth leaders at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) by presenting Brooke Harward of Richfield, N.C., the 2014 Jim Baldrige Outstanding Leadership Award. Harward has served as Miss American Angus and is a role model to many Angus youth, including her four younger sisters. She was recognized during the NJAS closing ceremonies July 11 in Indianapolis, Ind.

“Receiving this award is such a special experience,” Harward says. “I owe so much to the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). I started out as a shy little girl, but the junior program has helped me come out of my shell.”

Each year, an outstanding NJAA member is recognized for contributions to Angus organizations, personal Angus accomplishments, and community involvement and achievements. In 2014, the award was titled the Jim Baldrige Outstanding Leadership Award in memory of a lifetime of service to the Angus breed.

Baldrige’s career accomplishments include working as a representative for the *Angus Journal*, a sale manager, auctioneer and competitive Angus breeder. Yet, what the Baldrige name is most known for is the family’s award-winning seasonings.

Harward will receive a \$2,500 scholarship to commend her dedication to the Angus breed and the NJAA membership. Bill and Betty Werner of Werner Angus, Cordova, Ill., funded the award.

An active member of the Angus community, Harward’s leadership roles include officer positions within the North Carolina Junior Angus Association and serving as the 2012 Miss American Angus. She also served as the junior co-chair of the 2014 Eastern Regional Junior Show committee, where she displayed creativity, hard work and a passion for the junior program.

“Being crowned Miss American Angus has been my favorite Angus memory — I loved



PHOTOS BY AMERICAN ANGUS ASSOCIATION

► “Never think that it’s too late to start to get involved in Angus activities,” says Brooke Harward. “I attended my first NJAS when I was 16 years old, and then decided to get even more involved. I’m so thankful I did.”

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meeting people and teaching others about an industry and breed that I am

passionate about,” Harward says.

Her industry knowledge, coupled with strong presentation skills, makes Harward an impactful spokesperson for the Angus breed.

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years old, and then decided to get even more involved. I’m so thankful I did.”

Harward recently completed her bachelor’s degree at North Carolina State University (NCSU), where she earned a degree in agriculture business management with a minor in accounting. On campus, Harward was a member of the NCSU Agri-Marketing Team, and she also is the youngest member of the 2014-2015 State Young Farmer and Ranchers Committee with the North Carolina Farm Bureau. She also is involved at Highland Baptist Church in her hometown.

Harward works full-time at Mid-Atlantic Cattle sales and Harward Livestock Auctions. She hopes to continue to be involved in the agriculture industry, and is sure to be an effective leader for the Angus breed.

Additional NJAS contest placings, awards and scholarships were also announced during closing ceremonies. Visit www.angus.org for more information, including videos, show results and photos.



► Brooke Harward, Richfield, N.C., received the Jim Baldrige Outstanding Leader Award. Pictured are (from left) Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president; Harward, recipient; and Betty Werner, award sponsor.

Editor’s Note: Claire Carlson was the public relations and communications intern for the American Angus Association this summer.

