with the new year in full swing, the National Classic will be here before you know it. As many of you know, the A JS A has a service project each year that leads up to the National Classic. This year, we are very excited to announce that we will be collecting books for the children of Mississippi Hospital. The Children’s of Mississippi Hospital began a program called Literacy for Little Ones in January of 2015. This program encourages parents reading to their children, as it helps the parents feel good knowing that their children are reading as well as promotes future reading.

According to ReadToGrow.org (Read To Grow 2015), babies began learning the moment they were born. Rapid learning takes place during the early months after birth, more than any other time in a person’s life. By age 3, a baby’s brain has grown to about 80% of its adult size. Sharing books with children beginning at birth promotes bonding and attachment. The time spent together provides children with positive experiences that foster healthy emotional as well as cognitive development.

Developing language provides the foundation for developing literacy skills. Speaking, reading aloud and singing to your children all stimulate their understanding and use of language. Reading aloud is good for your baby’s memory, curiosity and vocabulary.

Reading aloud to children is the single most important activity for preventing low literacy. It provides language experience that stimulates a child’s brain to grow. Reading is learned through the car andParents for a foundation for success in reading by talking to a child, reading books, and playing auditory games such as those that involve rhyming words.

Parents are a child’s first and most important teacher. They play a vital role in their child’s language and literacy development. Literacy for Little Ones not only promotes comfort between parents and their children during their time in the hospital, this program encourages the development of literacy skills that can be continued outside of the hospital.

A JS A members did an awesome job last year in collecting pop tabs, and really made a difference with our contribution to the Ronald McDonald House. This year the A JS A Board of Trustees would like to challenge you to collect as many books as you can so that we can make that same difference, or an even bigger one, in children’s lives.

The official publication of the American Junior Simmental Association

2017 Denver Recap
Michelle Helm, South Central Trustee

2017 is finally here and what better way to start off the year than at IowaWest's biggest event, the National Western Stock Show. A JS A Trustee members kicked off the week in Denver with a meet and greet in the tents with Simmental breeders and exhibitors. It was great to catch up with old friends and meet new ones while enjoying the history and sights of being in the yards. That night, breeders had the opportunity to showcase their herd genetics in the 'Sunbowl on Ice' sale with 60 lots of embryos and semen averaging $5,652. The next day the bull pen show held in the yards This show is unique to Denver as it is the only show in the nation with a pen show. If you have never had the opportunity to experience this, be sure to put it on your bucket list. Breeders showcase either three or five of their best bulls or heifers and go head to head with other breeders from across the nation.

That night, the A JS A Foundation Gala and auction was held at the Doubletree Hotel. At this event, Golden Book recipients were awarded for their contribution and hard work to advance the Simmental breed. After the recipients had been recognized, Trent Los, an agriculture advocate spoke to everyone about how we can better communicate with the general public, as regards to our aspect of agriculture. Los was a great addition to the gala as he cracked a few jokes and brought a new discussion to the table about how to become better advocates for our breed, and for agriculture in general. If you would like to schedule in Trent Los, you can check out the live video on the A JS A Simmental Facebook page. We then moved into the auction, selling numerous lots of semen packages, gift baskets and other great items. The auction was a success, as over $45,000 was raised to aid in youth programs, education and research for the breed.

Monday brought the female pen show, as well as ‘The One’ sale, both held in the yards. ‘The One’ sale had a total of 53 lots of cows, heifers, and bulls averaging $2,350. The ExpoAuction started on the hill with junior cattle being evaluated by Kevin Jensen, and Open heifers and bulls being evaluated by Jim Jagen and associate judge Gregg Upchurch.

On behalf of the junior board, I would like to thank everyone who donated lots, purchased items, or volunteered your time to make Denver better than ever.
A Lesson

By Camrose Crayford
Eastern Trustee

Writing this article, I find myself home from the FFA for a couple of days. It’s a starting point to see if I am going to need to start writing this again. My next new chapter will begin when I hang up the reins of my Simmental and begin my new life in college. Before I start this new chapter, I would like to leave a list of things for anyone who may be reading this.

For example, you have cowboy hats and cattle. I spent a lot of time being around Simmental cattle. I didn’t understand what it truly meant to have cattle. I knew about the genetics behind them. I knew everything changed when I started taking an interest in Simmental cattle. As an embryo, Simmental cattle are everything. As a Simmental cattle grower, Simmental cattle show, and Simmental cattle are entered into the school’s livestock shows. Simmental cattle are entered into the county fair. Simmental cattle are entered into the county fairgrounds to see what showing cattle is all about. Simmental cattle entered into the county fairgrounds is how I found my way into Simmental cattle. Simmental cattle show, and Simmental cattle are entered into the county fair. Simmental cattle enter the county fair through the Simmental breed’s entry.

A couple years later I was approached by a Simmental breed representative, I was shown the Simmental breed. I was shown what Simmental cattle are and what Simmental cattle do in the show ring. It was a Simmental cattle that left its mark on me. After the Simmental cattle left its mark on me, I fell in love with the Simmental breed. I found my way into Simmental cattle.

As the close of winter approaches, and spring is on its way, Simmental cattle are busy at work in the show ring and on family farms across the country. With the Regional and National Classes only months away, the teams are quickly working to finalize any details to ensure the events run smoothly and effectively. This summer the American Simmental Association and Junior teams will work alongside the representatives of the Gelbvieh and Shorthorn junior boards to host the first IG S Summit. At an IG S Summit, there are numerous opportunities that can be taken for granted. Over the past couple years, I have been able to network with Simmental breeders and Simmental cattle enthusiasts across the country, work alongside a group of Simmental cattle, and meet Simmental cattle judges and other Simmental cattle enthusiasts.

It is starting to set in that I am soon going to move on to a new chapter in life. This new chapter will begin when I hang up the reins of my Simmental cattle and begin my new life in college. Before I start this new chapter, I would like to leave a list of things for anyone who may be reading this.

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