

# Upcoming AJSA Events

## 2017 AJSA Classic Dates

**April 1** – Entries open for Regional and National Classics

**May 15** – Entry Ownership Deadline for Regional Classics

**May 22** – Entry/Ownership Deadline for National Classic

**June 1** – AJSA Photography Contest, Silver and Gold Merit Awards and Trustee Applications deadline

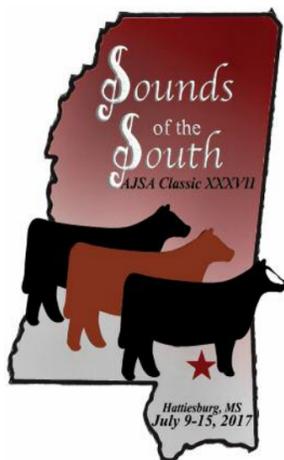
**June 14-17** – AJSA South Central Regional Classic, Springfield, MO

**June 14-17** – AJSA Eastern Regional Classic, London, OH

**June 21-24** – AJSA Western Regional Classic, Klamath Falls, OR

**June 28-2** – AJSA North Central Regional Classic, Huron, SD

**July 9-15** – AJSA National Classic, Hattiesburg, MS



Holiday Inn and Suites



Candlewood Suites

### 2017 National Classic Hotel Headquarters

#### Candlewood Suites

1050 6th Ave • Des Moines, IA  
601-296-0302  
\$99/night

#### Holiday Inn and Suites

Soon to be Double Tree  
1050 6th Ave • Des Moines, IA  
601-296-0302  
\$99/night

[www.juniorsimmental.org](http://www.juniorsimmental.org)

## AJSA 2016-2017 Board of Directors

### President

Kaylie Huizenga  
815.535.3185  
khuiz@gmail.com



### Vice President of Communications

Jody Baragary  
913.775.2927  
jody.baragary@yahoo.com



### Vice President of Leadership

Jordan Cowger  
816.916.3329  
jordancowger@gmail.com



### Vice President of Finance

Tanner Howey  
214.808.9049  
Tanner.howey@yahoo.com



### Vice President of Marketing

Kiersten Jass  
515.408.4918  
KierstenJass@gmail.com



### Eastern Regional Trustees

Cameron Crawford  
601.840.9480  
cameronecrawford95@gmail.com



Cole Liggett  
330.440.5580  
cliggett77@aol.com



Garrett Stanfield  
606.375.2794  
garrett.stanfield@stu.mason.kyschools.us



Lily Swain  
270.293.4094  
lswain1@murraystate.edu



### South Central Region Trustees

Michelle Helm  
405.368.3180  
michelle.l.helm@okstate.edu



Joel Mackey  
512.988.6794  
joel.mackey12@gmail.com



### North Central Region Trustee

Cade Bracker  
712.310.1082  
cmbracker@gmail.com



### Western Region Trustee

Maddy Beins  
435.452.2618  
Maddybeins@yahoo.com



Jericho Chappa  
406.600.1362  
jerichochappa@gmail.com



Zach Wilson  
360.941.8020  
Zach.Wilson1211@gmail.com



# Beyond the 4.0



By Jody Baragary  
Vice President of Membership Communications

Growing up, many of us were taught, rightfully so, to work as hard as we could in school and the goal is to achieve all A's. While this is sound advice, it is not 100% true. Yes, as a student, focusing on grades is absolutely important. However, there are many other factors that impact your life after you have received your diploma and are expected to be a fully functioning adult.

The first piece of advice that has been giving to me numerous times is to get involved. Whether it is in your breed organization, school, or an activity you enjoy doing like rock-climbing, find people who share your passion. By joining associations and clubs, you will open up many extraordinary opportunities. Some of these opportunities you will experience right away, while others could come down the road in ways you never imagined. When becoming more involved, do not be afraid to introduce yourself to other members of the organization or club. Yes, I will be the first to say it can be scary, but the more people you know, the more fun you will have and the more you can immerse yourself into the common passion that you share. Involvement is something that many companies look for during the hiring process. I have heard this many times — a student with straight A's and no involvement, shows employers that the student struggles with multitasking and being able to balance work. While this may not be the case, it is how employers perceive you, which, in the end, is what will make or break you. So, go out and meet new people and get involved!

Another factor that remains unseen on any transcript or résumé but is highly important is character. As you get older, you become a person who still looks up to people, but is also looked up to. Be the person who makes the world a better

place. While this seems like a lot of pressure and a little bit scary, it is simple. It can be as simple as picking up trash when you see it on the ground. It is important to treat people, as you want to be treated. Remember, when you take an action, think about the consequences and how you would see yourself if you were in someone else's shoes. In the age we live in, social media can be a huge factor in this as well. One rule I like to go by — if you wouldn't want your future employer to see it, do not post it. Networking can often times benefit you, but it can also hurt you in the future. Think about a time you have said something in the show barn that maybe would hurt someone's feelings, or be embarrassing to you if it was said to a group of 100 people. Now think about if you had said that and a potential future employer had passed by and heard what you had said. How does that reflect your character? It is important to think about these factors not only for career opportunities, but to be that person who makes the world a better place.

No, I am not saying that grades are not important, they are extremely important. Life isn't all about achieving a 4.0; it's about experience and getting the most out of it that you can. I hope the next time you think about joining a club or organization, you go for it without any regrets. Life is too short not to take every opportunity that comes your way.

# 2017 Western Regionals



By Maddy Beins  
Western Trustee

As the years go by, the AJSA Regional and National Classics have become bigger and better each year. Being a Western Regional Trustee, I have seen the Western Regional Classic come a long way. The past few years, the Western Regionals has been located in Bozeman, Montana, headquarters of our National Association, which have done a fantastic job hosting us.

However this year, we are so excited to announce the 2017 Western Regionals will be held in Klamath Falls, Oregon — also known as the "city of sunshine".

Oregon would be a new location for many people, which is getting many AJSA members very excited! Klamath Falls is located in the southern part of Oregon, 25 miles north of the California-Oregon border. We have so many fun activities planned for this year that you won't want to miss.

So, if you're considering a regional to attend, don't hesitate! Come join us at the Western in Oregon the 21-24 of June. With breathtaking views, beautiful weather, and great hospitality, the 2017 Western Regionals is the place to be!



# AJSA HotWire

November 2016

The official publication of the American Junior Simmental Association

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

## A Word From Your President

Kaylie Huizenga, AJSA President

I think it's safe to say that summer is a livestock kid's favorite season of the year. With no school to attend or extra homework to work on, the days are wide open for working cattle and preparing for the AJSA National and Regional Classics. The 2016 National Classic in Des Moines, Iowa, is certainly one we will never forget, setting the record for largest National Classic in Simmental books.

Unfortunately, summer has come to an end and it is now time to buckle down in school and take care of business, which is exactly what the AJSA Board of Trustees did in early October. On October 7-9, the AJSA Board of Trustees met for our annual meeting at the Simmental headquarters in Bozeman, Montana, to discuss some exciting plans for the coming year.

If you didn't see the AJSA's new apparel line, the Show Shield, at this year's National Classic, then you better check it out in Louisville and Denver, as well as other AJSA events. Coming soon will be more Show Shield t-shirts in new colors and hats.

If you are already looking forward to summer 2017, you can begin preparing for our National Classic, July 9-15, in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Our community service project for 2017 will be to collect children's books and deliver them to a local hospital in Jackson, Mississippi. Be sure to get your entire state association involved, because the state with the most books at the opening ceremonies at the National Classic, will receive a special prize!

### – What's Inside –

#### The Decision of a Lifetime

#### Outside the Walls of the Show Barn

#### Sounds of the South Hattiesburg, MS Host of 2017 National Classic

#### Veterinary Feed Directive

#### Introducing an Exciting and Unique Contest

#### Beyond the 4.0

#### 2017 Western Regionals



After a long week at the National Classic though, who doesn't want to sit back, relax, and have a little fun? Following on the heels of the National Classic, the 2017 Summit Leadership conference in Orlando, Florida, August 3-6, will be the perfect opportunity to kick back, learn, and have fun with your Simmental friends without your cattle at the shows. "Big Ears, Big Dreams", is the theme for this event, so be ready with your big-eared Simmentals and Simbrahs by keeping an open mind, listening to others, and dreaming big!

Your AJSA Board of Trustees worked hard to get ready for 2017 and after our meeting adjourned, we some time off to get an up-close view of Montana's beautiful Rocky Mountains. We hiked a half a mile up the "M" — rising 850 feet in elevation. Many of us were out of breath during the climb up, but once we made it to the top, the view was breathtaking. Overall, the entire AJSA fall board meeting was productive and fun. We can't wait to share with you all what we've been working on for this coming year!



# The Decision of a Lifetime



By Cole Liggett  
Eastern Trustee

It is hard to believe that one year ago I was a senior in high school applying to colleges and making decisions on where my life would be for the next four years. One year has passed and I am now halfway through my first semester at Kansas State University. Choosing which college to attend can be an extremely stressful time; deciding where you want to spend the next four years of your life can be a very challenging decision. There is also the painstaking work of filling out applications for colleges and scholarships. Then you must wait in anticipation of hearing back from the college and various scholarship committees. I can now say that I have been there, and I know exactly how it feels.

Like many, I was anxious to get out on my own and move on to bigger and better things. However, I advise you not to take a moment for granted. It can be challenging at times but do not let your decision on where to continue your education overwhelm you.

I am, and will always be, a Buckeye at heart, but I decided to travel nearly 900 miles from home to attend Kansas State University. When deciding where to attend college, I had to consider which institution would best prepare me for the future. Many factors are involved in choosing a college, but I would encourage you to keep your eyes open for the school where you can fully pursue your passion. Attending



a college that can fully equip you in the area you are passionate about will allow you to find your true purpose and pursue your dreams.

For most students, the transition from high school to college can be very scary and overwhelming. I'll be the first to admit that I was nervous moving 13 hours away from home and being on my own for the first time.



I have been very blessed and fortunate to be able to show cattle and be involved in the AJSA. Although I have just begun my college experience, it is easy to see that my involvement in the AJSA has eased my transition and will help me move seamlessly through

out the next four years. Being involved in the beef industry and caring for my own livestock has required me to acquire a strict sense of responsibility and work ethic. Going to class, doing my homework, and studying for exams is now 100% my responsibility without my parents around to motivate me.

My involvement in the AJSA through the regional and national Classics has provided me with a set of skills that will be vitally important going forward. These skills, such as the ability to speak publicly, defend my decisions through reasoning, and the ability to shed positive light on the beef industry, will not only help me through college but also in my career down the road. I feel as though I am a step ahead of many other students who have not had the opportunity to be involved with a great organization such as the AJSA. The AJSA has given me the opportunity to meet people from all around the country and become close friends with them. Now that I am in college, I am going to school with my friends that I met in the AJSA and they are always willing to help me with anything I need.

# Outside the Walls of the Show Barn



By Garrett Stanfield  
Eastern Trustee

As I write this article, I am 36,000 feet in the sky on a plane from Oklahoma to the Simmental headquarters in Bozeman, Montana. As time goes on, I am provided the opportunity to reflect upon the past year of my life, and the wonderful opportunities it has provided.

As we all know, growing up on a cattle farm never grants the chance to take a break from the work that begins in the cold winter months of calving season and never seems to end. However, for most of us, it is the summer months that provide the most thrills. There is an unforgettable excitement each time we walk in the show ring, whether it is at the AJSA National Classic or simply the county fair. We are able to exhibit the livestock that we have spent months of preparation for the mere 15 minutes in front of the judge. Whether we walk away with the purple banner at the end of the day, or it becomes just another show, there is always something that keeps us coming back for more. Perhaps for me it's the passion for an industry I hope to spend the rest of my life in, or maybe it's the passion for the AJSA, an organization that has given so much to me the past 18 years, as well as to so many others within the Simmental breed. Being a member of the American Junior Simmental Association has rounded me as a young cattleman, providing the necessary knowledge needed to succeed in several aspects of the beef industry. Our great association is unique in the utilization of educational contests as a tool to develop future industry leaders. Furthermore, these educational contests in combination with the experience I have gained in the show ring made it a natural decision to continue my post-secondary education in the field of Animal Science.

I am sure, like me, many others can credit their passions and career paths to associations like the AJSA. Whether you know it or not, opportunities lie ahead with involvement in agricultural organizations and associations. Find your dreams and passions, set your goals, and pursue them through the American Junior Simmental Association.



# Sounds of the South Hattiesburg, Mississippi to Host 2017 National Classic



By Cameron Crawford, MS  
Eastern Trustee



As I am writing this, I am headed back home from our annual board meeting in Bozeman, Montana. Where's home you might ask? That would be the great state of Mississippi, home to the 2017 National Classic! From the flat plains of the Mississippi Delta, to the sandy beaches of the barrier islands, Mississippi is full of fun and interesting happenings. For instance did you know that Edward Adolf Barq, Sr. invented root beer in Biloxi in 1898? How about Belzoni, Mississippi, being the Catfish Capital of the World? Mississippi is also the birthplace of some of the most famed voices and faces across the globe. Morgan Freeman,

James Earl Jones, Oprah Winfrey, Elvis Presley, and Jim Henson, creator of the Muppets, all hail from this great state. Speaking of hailing, "Hail State!" is the popular war cry of Mississippi's land grant university, Mississippi State. Mississippi State is most widely known for two things, its great dairy products and most notably, its cowbells.

I would imagine you probably didn't know this much about Mississippi, and that's ok. You can definitely learn more if you join us for the National Classic! We would love to have you! After all, we are "The Hospitality State"!



# Veterinary Feed Directive



By Michelle Helm  
South Central Trustee

On January 1, 2017, the way livestock producers buy medicine and doctor cattle will be drastically changed. At this time, the Veterinary Feed Directive will come into play banning some feed additives and restricting the use of others. This rule will drastically affect the beef industry as many of these antimicrobials being restricted are used in the day-to-day practice of raising and finishing cattle.

This rule was written by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) with the end goal of banning all growth promotion and feed efficiency additives as well as restricting other drugs, used to be under the supervision of licensed veterinarians. One of the main reasons this is being put into effect was that the FDA wants to decrease the bacterial resistance to medically important antimicrobial drugs used in human medicine. They believe that by feeding food animals these feed additives, and humans, in turn, eating the meat from these animals, increases resistance in certain human medicines.

While this will affect all of the livestock industry, the beef cattle industry will feel the most hurt. Many of these additives are used in finishing operations to improve the efficiency of the animal. Not all drugs will be banned as some can still be purchased with prescriptions from a veterinarian. To receive this prescription, a veterinarian-client-patient relationship must be in place. This simply means that you must have a good and long-standing relationship in order for a veterinarian to give you a prescription.

To prepare for this new rule as a producer, the best thing to do is to create a relationship with a licensed veterinarian. Establishing that relationship before this rule comes into effect will make it easier to receive prescriptions for those feed additives. For more information and a list of what feed additives will be affected, visit:

[www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ucm071807](http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ucm071807).



# Introducing an Exciting and Unique Contest



By Cade Bracker  
North Central Trustee

Recently, the American Junior Simmental Association (AJSA) released a unique program — the Steer Profitability Contest (SPC). This contest is geared to create another avenue for the junior membership to compete and get involved in, as well as a great educational opportunity for their future. This contest promotes kids to become a part of the AJSA, and sparks youth interest in raising Simmental cattle.

During this contest, competitors will be able to enter up to three (3) steers that have at least one parent registered with the American Simmental Association (ASA). In November, the preconditioned steers will make the trip to Chappell Feedlot in Valentine, Nebraska. During the time at Chappell, the steers will be fed

and cared for by the staff and will be given veterinary attention as needed. In May, the finished steers will be sent to Cargill to be harvested, where they will be judged on their carcass value, performance while in the feedlot, and their profitability.

We are expecting 50+ steers to be entered in this year's contest. Winners will be announced at the 2017 AJSA National Classic Awards Banquet. Awards will be given to the top-three animals overall as well as the top, pen-of-three overall. Throughout the contest, competitors will participate in monthly eMeetings, receive a monthly email report from Chappell Feedlot, and they will receive their final feedlot and carcass performance data.



The future of this program looks very bright, as there has been a lot of support for this endeavor by the ASA, AJSA, as well as many others within the industry. On behalf of the AJSA, I would like to thank all of the sponsors who have donated to this unique program. Although we are in the first year, we see great things coming from the Steer Profitability Contest and are very excited to see it grow.

