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Canadian Angus Foundation Announces Junior Ambassador & Outstanding Young Angus Breeders

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Quebec City, QC — The 2016 Robert C. McHaffie Junior Ambassador is Michaela Chalmers of Oro-Medonte, ON. Ryan Currie of Bristol, QC and Shawn Birmingham of Brandon, MB were both selected as 2016 Outstanding Young Angus Breeders. Awards were presented at the Canadian Angus Convention banquet on Saturday night.

Michaela Chalmers is enrolled in the University of Guelph Animal Biology program working toward an Honors Bachelor of Science. She has been directly involved in her family operation JPD Angus, exhibiting cattle at shows across Canada. She has been a 4-H member and served as president of the Ontario Junior Angus Association. She currently sits as a director with the Canadian Junior Angus Association and helped organize the 2016 Guiding Outstanding Angus Leaders conference.

The Robert C. McHaffie Junior Ambassador program selects one Canadian Junior Angus Association member to be an ambassador for the Canadian Angus Association at events across Canada and one international experience. Four other CJAA members competed for the award. Brooke Bablitz of Cherhill, AB; Josee Monvoisin of Gravelbourg, SK; Wade Olynyk of Goodeve, SK and Raina Syrnyk of Ethelbert, MB all deserve recognition for their impressive efforts in the competition.

Shawn Birmingham is a director on the Canadian Angus Association board. He got his start showing Angus-cross animals in 4-H and bought his first purebred animal while a member of the Manitoba Junior Angus Association. Birmingham, his wife Teresa and their children Jazlynn and Bella operate TSN Livestock, a purebred Black Angus, commercial cattle and grain operation in Brandon. They calve about 250 females each year, 80 of which are purebreds, and farm 5800 acres of grain land. Birmingham has been in the Angus business for nearly 20 years, holding executive positions in 4-H, the Manitoba Junior Angus Association and Manitoba Angus Association. His peers recognize him as a hardworking, dedicated and enthusiastic cattleman. He has a diploma in Agriculture from the University of Manitoba and in addition to his agricultural business activities, Birmingham enjoys hunting, fishing and spending time outdoors.

Ryan Currie is a director on the Canadian Angus Association board and a purebred Angus and commercial breeder located in Bristol, QC. With his wife Holly and daughter Brynn, he operates

Blacklane Farm, a 57-head cow herd comprised of purebred Angus and commercial Angus-influenced cows. Currie exhibits Angus at shows in Canada and the U.S. as well as promoting and selling Angus bulls to commercial cattlemen across Quebec. He also serves as a volunteer firefighter, is a director on the Pontiac Agricultural Society Fair Board and is actively involved in the local 4-H club where he acts a steer leader and helps many local kids with their beef projects, inviting youth in his area the chance to show any heifer they want from his place, even if they don't have cattle themselves. He represented Quebec on the Canadian Junior Angus Association Board of Directors from 2003-2006 and holds a diploma in Farm Management and Technology from MacDonald College.

The Outstanding Young Angus Breeder Award recognizes an Angus breeder between the ages of 22 and 30 who has demonstrated a desire to stay involved in the Angus business for years to come based on their involvement within the breed up to this point in his or her career. The award comes with a \$3,500 cash prize.

The Canadian Angus Foundation was incorporated in 1993 and is the charitable arm of the Canadian Angus Association.

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