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Angus Juniors Awarded \$17,500 at GOAL Conference

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CALGARY, AB — Fifty-two Canadian Angus youth gathered in Calgary, Alberta over the weekend for the Guiding Outstanding Angus Leaders (GOAL) Conference hosted by the Canadian Junior Angus Association (CJAA) to promote leadership skills among peers from across the nation.

During the conference, \$17,500 worth of scholarships and awards were given to Angus youth by the Canadian Angus Foundation (CAF). Last fall, the Foundation committed to giving more than \$35,000 to Angus youth and young breeders as directed by their mission statement to “preserve and expand the Angus breed for future generations through education, youth development, scientific and market research and historical restoration.”

The first award presented at GOAL was a \$3,000 heifer voucher, won in an attendee draw. Peter Van Staveren of Stayner, Ontario, was the lucky winner of this prize to be used in the purchase of any Canadian-born Angus female registered in Canada.

“The Angus voucher will help me grow my herd and become more competitive in the show ring,” said Van Staveren. “I would like to thank the Canadian Angus Foundation for this opportunity and making this bursary possible. Being in university can make it challenging to continue to purchase cattle while paying for school at the same time.”

This summer at Showdown, the Canadian Junior Angus national show, three more heifer vouchers totalling \$7,000 will be awarded. CJAA members who participate in Showdown will be eligible to win these heifer vouchers.

The next set of awards presented during the GOAL Conference were the three new Foundation Legacy Scholarships. Three scholarships totalling \$10,000 were presented. Five finalists were selected from ten CJAA member applicants based on their applications and academic achievements. The finalists took part in a personal interview conducted by CAA members and a moderated panel discussion on industry and Association topics.

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The winners of these three prestigious scholarships were as follows – winning \$5,000 and first place was Patrick Holland of Montague, Prince Edward Island; second place and winning a scholarship of \$3,000 was Katelyn Dietrich of Forestburg, Alberta; and the recipient of third place and a \$2,000 scholarship was Breanna Anderson of Swan River, Manitoba.

Holland is currently pursuing a career in pharmacy at Dalhousie University. As a current director of the CJAA and recent member of the champion World Angus Forum youth team in New Zealand, Holland has been active in the Association on a national level. When asked to compare pharmacy school with the CJAA, Holland explained the importance of fostering good relationships with peers and customers, no matter the situation. In a time when technology and practices are constantly changing, he also admits that being organized and adaptable as well as being a good problem solver will assist him both as a pharmacist and a farmer.

“I am honoured to have had the chance to compete against the other finalists in this competition and to ultimately receive the first Foundation Legacy Scholarship,” said Holland. “This award will cover my school tuition cost for a semester, which will take a tremendous amount of pressure off of me and allow me to be more involved with Angus in the Maritimes. I am very thankful to the Canadian Angus Foundation and its contributions for the creation of this scholarship fund.”

Dietrich is also thankful for her second-place scholarship award. She is currently enrolled in her third year studying education at the University of Alberta with hopes of finding placement in a small town teaching grade one or two. Last summer, Dietrich was a CAA Summer Marketing Intern, travelling across Alberta to get youth enthusiastic about the CJAA. Dietrich credits the CJAA and Alberta Junior Angus Association for giving her the fervor for youth involvement.

“I believe that teaching is an occupation that will allow me to continue to be an agriculture enthusiast and share my love for youth programming,” said Dietrich. “I look forward to the future and all of the opportunities that may present themselves.”

Anderson, the recipient of the third-place scholarship, is currently in her third year of Animal Science at the University of Saskatchewan where she is an active member of the judging team and Stockman’s Club. She notes that while her future may include research, genetics or communications, one concrete thing she sees in her future is farming. Anderson is the current Vice President of the Manitoba Junior Angus Association and has been very active on a national level, recently returning from the World Angus Forum youth competition and travelling across Canada over the years for GOAL Conference and Showdown.

“All of my future goals come back to two things: people and cattle,” said Anderson. “The wonderful thing about agriculture is that there are numerous avenues that my education can take me on.”

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The next set of awards were presented before GOAL took place. GOAL travel bursaries were given based on a candidate's desire to attend GOAL and the return investment he or she could provide the Association. The CJAA sponsored four bursaries and the CAF sponsored two bursaries. The following CJAA members received \$750 bursaries to offset GOAL expenses – James Worth, Cornwall, PE; Ella Wood, Clyde River, PE; Peter Van Staveren, Stayner, ON; Kelsey Ribey, Paisely, ON; Brandy Thaxter, Woodville, ON; and Breanna Anderson, Swan River, MB.

“We were looking for a means of getting more youth to GOAL Conference,” said Belinda Wagner, CAF and CJAA Executive Director. “By awarding six individuals a \$750 bursary, we are helping Juniors financially who might otherwise not be able to attend this nationally recognized event.”

The GOAL Conference promotes leadership skills within the Angus breed. Junior members from all over the country attend this three-day event held in a different location each year. During the event, Juniors hear from nationally recognized speakers, participate in workshops designed to improve their leadership skills, get involved in teamwork activities, and develop beef and industry knowledge. Participants are also given the opportunity to network and socialize with fellow Junior Angus members.

The Canadian Angus Foundation functions to preserve and expand the Angus breed for future generations through education, youth development, scientific and market research, and historical preservation. The Canadian Angus Foundation was incorporated in 1993 and is the charitable arm of the Canadian Angus Association.

- 30 -

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