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Outstanding Students Selected as Angus Summer Interns

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Rocky View County, AB—For the third year in a row, the Canadian Angus Association is excited to announce our summer internship selections. The CAA is committed to a three-year program which primarily focuses on marketing the female beef 4-H project, increasing the number of junior Angus members, general industry promotion and exposure to CAA membership services. Through additional funding, a research internship also became available this year.

The two interns chosen to represent the CAA this summer most directly in their chosen provinces but also across Canada are Kaitlyn Olynyk of Saskatchewan and Sophie Wotten of Ontario.

Chosen for her charisma and passion for the Angus industry as well as her experience with youth, Olynyk will add value to the CAA through her summer activities with the Association. Growing up in Goodeve, Saskatchewan, she was taught the fundamentals of the breed through her own family operation, Crescent Creek Angus. Olynyk has experience with youth through various leadership experiences including Saskpower farm safety presentations, volleyball coaching and special needs camp counselling, to name a few. Her Angus involvement includes being a director with both the Canadian Junior Angus Association and Saskatchewan Junior Angus Association. Olynyk is in her third year at the University of Regina in the faculty of education.

Additionally, Little Britain, Ontario native Wotten will join the summer internship program. Located in Ontario, Wotten will focus on marketing Angus on the other side of the country. With her passion for marketing, she is excited to bring her motivation and enthusiasm coupled with her studies in marketing at the University of Guelph to her summer experience. Having received many scholarships and awards through 4-H and the Young Canadian Simmental Association, Wotten brings a new perspective to the Association. Wotten grew up on a Simmental seedstock and commercial sheep operation.

The CAA marketing internships are for college, university or technical students looking for an opportunity to interact with juniors and promote Angus cattle to both youth and breeders alike. The positions begin in late April and will last through August.

“I’m excited to work with two outstanding young ladies this year through our summer internship program,” said Cassie Dorran, CAA director of marketing and branding and intern supervisor. “This year we will be concentrating on our messaging to our youth, membership and entire beef industry, and it is my goal that we keep the future of our Association strong through interest from a younger generation.”

Contact the Canadian Angus Association at 1-888-571-3580 to request a summer intern attend your school for a very comprehensive and interactive workshop promoting agriculture with a strong focus on purebred livestock.

This year, the CAA was able to hire a third intern based out of the Calgary office with an emphasis on research and special projects. Matt Bates of Cameron, Ontario, will coordinate research projects for the organization, create a relationship with research facilities in Alberta and apply for grant applications. Bates will coordinate with the research herd at the University of Alberta’s Kinsella Research Station. He will also work on a teat and udder project, sampling 1,500

cows to compare their teat and udder structure with their genetic make-up ultimately creating a GE-EPD (genomically enhanced expected progeny difference) for these traits. Bates will spend a majority of his time on the road working with producer herds to create a functional database for this project. Bates is certainly no stranger to the Association, having served as a marketing summer intern last year, and acting as a part-time fieldman in Ontario this fall, as well as recently being named the top individual at the World Angus Forum Youth Competition, and having his own herd of Angus cattle. In the fall, Bates will continue his education at the University of Guelph with aspirations to be a large animal veterinarian.

Bates will start with the Association in February and continue his duties for a 32-week contract. For more information about his work, contact Kajal Devani, CAA Director of Breed Development and intern supervisor.

The Canadian Angus Association is Canada's largest purebred beef breed organization. The Association represents 3,000 members across Canada for the purposes of registering and recording the pedigrees of purebred Angus cattle in the closed HerdBook and promoting the breed across Canada. The member-approved mandate is to maintain breed registry, breed purity and provide services that enhance the growth and position of the Angus breed.

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