

Mason Dixon Red Angus News

MDRAA News

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Mason Dixon Red Angus
Association

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Letter from the President

As I write this letter I realize this will be the last time I write as the President of the Mason Dixon Red Angus Association and quite honestly I'm ready for a change. With having changed jobs from government service to equipment sales and with my two oldest children playing sports and starting to show livestock in 4H, time and energy are not often at a premium.

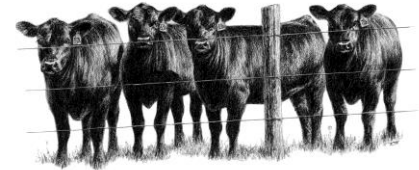
Our association is at a point where we need new leadership and direction for our association. I'll touch on this at our annual meeting which I hope everyone will attend. Please consider giving your time in a leadership role within our association.

Many of you have heard that the VA Beef Expo date was changed resulting in many of the breed associations to pull out of the expo and look for other venues and dates to host their breed sales. Our sales management is looking into the same and we will be discussing this with our association's members during our annual meeting.

Gabe Zepp
MDRAA President

Annual Winter Meeting

The annual winter meeting will be held at 11:00a.m. on **Sunday, February 9, 2014** at the Golden Corral Restaurant, 120 Costello Drive, Winchester, VA 22602. Please call Gabe Zepp at 443-340-0808 or email: zredcows@gmail.com by Wednesday, February 5th with your reservation. All are encouraged to attend.



Junior Report

The following is an update from Marlaina Johnson on the trip the junior members took to Montana this past summer. Rachel Davis provided a very detailed recall of their trip on the next page.

“This Summer I spent two weeks in Montana! We had so much fun! We saw lots of different farms. One of my favorite places we went was Genex. We got to see a bull get collected and we saw the procedure of testing the semen. And I really liked going up the mountain in the horse wagons. It was an enjoyable experience!

I met a lot of different people while I was in Montana and I made many good friends! I learned a lot as well. We had a lot of different contests. We had a weight guessing contest, a couple judging classes, identification class, and a quiz. I think my trip to Montana was definitely the chance in a life time! It was my first time going to round up and hopefully not my last! Thanks to every one for their support and thanks to all the chaperones who made this trip possible!” – Marlaina Johnson

Future News Info

If you have news items to include in the newsletter please contact Gabe Zepp at 443-340-0808 or email: zredcows@gmail.com.

Junior Montana Trip

Dear MDRAA Members,

On June 20 five Mason Dixon Junior members; Rachel Waggle, Jolene Davis, Madison Goodman, Marlaina Johnson, and myself, and two chaperones; Regan Waggle and Patty Johnson, arrived at the Billings airport in Montana where we would begin the 2013 Junior Red Angus Roundup. The first day in Montana we stayed at the Little Big Horn Resort and helped Dawn Bernhard get the activities organized and ready to start Roundup. After we finished helping her we were given water park passes for the remainder of the day to use.

The next day once all junior Red Angus members from across the country and two from Canada had checked in we headed out to Midland Bull Test where we spent time doing ice breakers with the Montana FFA Officers, touring Midland and hearing about how they test all the bulls. The next stop for the day was a trip to Montana Silversmiths. Once all juniors had finished shopping we loaded the charter bus again and headed to the Stillwater River where we would go white water rafting.

Sunday, June 23, the day began with a presentation from Red Angus Association of America staff members McKenzie Smith and Myron Edelman. The two talked about their role in the Red Angus Association and how important it is to be active in the association. Once Myron and McKenzie had finished Larry Melhoff of 5L Red Angus held cowboy church for the junior members to enjoy. The next stop for the day would be a re-enactment of Custer's Last Stand. After the re-

enactment had concluded the junior members boarded the bus and headed for Redland Red Angus where we would enjoy a scavenger hunt, equipment id, cattle judging and a wonderful dinner.

The next day began with a tour of Fort Keogh Livestock and Range Research Facility. Here the juniors learned about range fires, cattle reproductive tracts, genetics, junior members even had the opportunity to stick their hand into the rumen of a fistulated cow. After the speech contest were concluded the group headed to take a look at Dr. Andrew Roberts' own herd of Red Angus Cattle. That night the juniors went to Castleberry Ranch where we were served a delicious pitchfork fondue dinner. Once dinner was over we made our final stop for the night at Camp Needmore where we would spend the night, a barn dance was held with live music before the junior members hit the hay.

Day four, Tuesday, June 25, was spent at Milk Creek Reds. The morning began with an old fashion wagon train up into the hills where we got to climb a huge hill and experience a view of a lifetime. After the climb back down the hill, wagon ride back to the bus, and a big lunch all junior members participated in Quiz Bowl and Barnyard Olympics. Bruce Ketchum then talked with the juniors about his facility. On the way back to Billings the junior members had the opportunity to ask the officer candidates questions about why they should be on the JRA board.

The final day of Round-Up, Wednesday, June 26, started early. The group headed to the Northern Ag Network television set where Alyssa Looney, president of the Junior Red Angus Association, talked on live TV

about what all the juniors do on Roundup. We also visited the local radio station. At the NILE (Northern International Livestock Exposition) juniors had a chance to tour the fair grounds and NILE office and compete in the team advocacy competition. After leaving the NILE we headed to Genex/Hawkeye West where we were served lunch and observed a demonstration of collecting and freezing semen. Here we were also privileged enough to walk through the barns and look at some of the bulls being housed here. The final ranch visit for Roundup 2013 was to Rock Creek Red Angus. Here cattle were on view, along with a weight guessing contest and then annual committee meetings were held. After the farm tour the group traveled to the Joliet Community Center where the Junior Red Angus concluded Round-Up with their annual business meeting, officer elections, and awards banquet. After enjoying pizza for supper, the juniors participated in a Chinese auction with items other juniors had brought from their home state.

All juniors headed home on Thursday except for the newly elected officers. Serving as a newly elected National Junior Board Director for the North East Region I participated in leadership activities and a board meeting where we discussed events for the upcoming year. Friday, June 26, I headed back home to Virginia. I think it is safe to say all juniors enjoyed their trip to Big Sky Country and are looking forward to next year's roundup, "California Dreaming!"

Sincerely,

Rachel Davis, MDJRAA President

Mason Dixon Red Angus Association

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