**AJCA Awards College Scholarships**

The Arkansas Junior Cattlemen’s Association is pleased to announce this year’s recipients of graduating high school senior scholarship awards. Katy Tunstill – Fayetteville receives $2,000, Katie McNinch – Enola receives $1,800, Emily Bilbrey – Walnut Ridge receives $1,600 and Hunter Yates – Walnut Ridge receives $1,600.

Katy Tunstill, past president of the AJCA, has spent her life raising and exhibiting Angus cattle. Most of her extracurricular activities have been agricultural based programs such as 4-H, FFA, Arkansas Junior Angus Association, Arkansas Jr. Simmental Association and the AJCA. She first joined AJCA in 2004 and has held the offices of president, president-elect, secretary, treasurer, area vice president and even was the AJCA points administrator. Katy has chaired the AJCA state leadership conference, the AJCA bake sale and has coordinated the AJCA year-end awards ceremony. Katy has served as the chairman of four state wide cattle shows and one regional cattle show. Katy believes that being a part of AJCA has truly been one of the best experiences of her life, so far. Katy says, “I will always cherish traveling from show to show every weekend, spending time with family and friends, and gaining confidence not only in my ability to exhibit cattle, but gaining experiences such as writing articles, organizing events and shows, and speaking to adult cattlemen and cattlewomen about the benefits of AJCA.” Katy was a member of the FFA state winning livestock judging team in 2012 and was awarded 2nd high overall individual. Katy is the daughter of Darrell and Sheri Tunstill. She will attend Oklahoma State University in Stillwater where she will study agricultural communications and agribusiness.

Katie McNinch will attend Central Baptist College in Conway to study physical therapy. Katie is the daughter of Dale and Kelly McNinch. Katie has been a part of AJCA since 2007. Katie has held leadership positions in FFA and FCA along with being a member of FCCLA, Beta Club and a member of her school yearbook staff. Katie is an excellent athlete playing both basketball and softball for her high school. Katie’s years exhibiting cattle with AJCA has provided her with self-confidence. She has learned responsibility, sportsmanship and leadership. Katy has learned that she must be responsible for the appearance and care of her cattle. They depend upon her to take care of them. She has learned that you don’t always win but you must keep your chin up and head on to the next show just the same. She has learned that your actions speak louder you’re your words. Others watch her and she wants them to emulate the good things she does and the positive attitude she portrays. These traits will carry her through college and her career. Katie exhibited the Grand Champion Market Steer at the 2012 Arkansas State Fair. Katie says, “I have had many success stories while showing. But most of all I have had the opportunity to spend time with family and make friends that will last a lifetime.”

Emily Bilbrey, daughter of Tanya Bratcher will attend Arkansas State University majoring in Animal Science/Veterinary Medicine. Emily has been an AJCA member since 2008. Emily shows commercial heifers, Angus, Shorthorn and Red Angus cattle. During Emily’s years of showing cattle she has received many grand and reserve grand champion awards at local, district, state and national shows. One year at the Arkansas State Fair she exhibited both the grand champion Shorthorn heifer and the grand champion Red Angus heifer. Last year at the Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo she exhibited the Reserve Grand Fall Calf Champion Red Angus heifer. Emily has been inducted into the Arkansas State Fair Purple Circle Club for exhibiting grand champions. Emily won two prestigious AJCA belt buckles last year for both the Overall Red Angus Bull and Overall Red Angus Heifer. Emily is very active on her high school campus serving as president of student council, vice president of FFA and FTA, secretary of HOSA and secretary of Beta Club. Emily says, “I was always a very shy person. Showing cattle has helped me to come out of my shell. I love meeting new people in AJCA. I will always have ribbons and awards reminding me what I won. But it’s the people involved in AJCA that have boosted my self-confidence. Nothing can ever replace that.”

Hunter Yates will attend Connors State College in Warner, Oklahoma majoring in Purebred Ranch Operations. Hunter is also planning to pursue a veterinary medicine degree later at Oklahoma State University. Hunter is the son of Jeff and Kellie Yates. Having been involved in AJCA for the past five years, Hunter has attended various cattle shows and earned numerous grand and reserve grand champion awards. Hunter has exhibited Angus, Red Angus, Chianina, commercial heifers and market steers. Hunter is active at his high school serving as both FFA vice president and FCA president along with being a student council member, science club, and livestock show team member. He participates on the livestock judging, horse judging, land judging, meats judging and forestry judging teams. Hunter is an active member of the football, basketball and track teams. Hunter says, “I became a member of AJCA because I wanted to learn more about the cattle industry and meet people who shared a common passion for cattle. The three main lessons AJCA has taught me include responsibility, time management and sportsmanship. My membership in AJCA has led me to my chosen career path. AJCA has literally been life changing by giving me a sense of direction and purpose. I am truly thankful for all those affiliated with AJCA and the Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association for their willingness to encourage, uplift and support me as I chase my dream of a future cattleman and veterinarian.

Funding for the AJCA scholarships is provided by funds from the AJCA sponsors along with monies raised from the AJCA Thanksgiving Classic Show. Congratulations to the winners.