

Meet Your 2017 AJCA Youth Leaders

A group of dynamic youth lead the Arkansas Jr. Cattlemen's Association. The board of directors consists of officers, area representatives and board members at large. These individuals are some of the best and brightest up and coming livestock leaders in the region. We are both pleased and proud to have them building and directing our Association.

Grace Harris, sixteen years old from Horatio, is serving this year as the AJCA President. Grace says, "Showing cattle has provided me with numerous opportunities that have allowed me to better myself as an agriculturalist and a leader." Fellow AJCA members may not know that Grace is a starting forward on her high school's varsity basketball team or that she is a member of the National Honor Society at her school. Grace shows and raises commercial heifers in hopes of winning her grandfather's memorial at the Arkansas State Fair. Her livestock goal this year is to exhibit the Supreme Champion Commercial Heifer at the Arkansas State Fair. Grace is looking forward to running for a position as an Arkansas FFA state officer, graduating from Horatio High and furthering her education at Oklahoma State University to become a pharmacist. Grace reports that being an AJCA member has added so many positive things to her life. Membership has provided numerous networking opportunities and has allowed her to grow as a leader repeatedly. Grace reports that she will forever be thankful to the AJCA for the positive attributes it has provided in her life.

Seventeen-year-old Logan Sigmon is in the 11th grade at Berryville High School. Logan is serving AJCA as the President-Elect. He enjoys meeting new people at cattle shows. He takes a lot of pride in showing cattle that he has bred and raised himself. Logan's goal is to win his junior national Simmental show with a bred and owned bull. Logan plans a career in construction or welding. Logan look forward to working to build AJCA into a larger organization over the next two years.

The AJCA Secretary is Mallory Kate Hobson, seventeen years old from Fouke. Mallory is in the 12th grade at Fouke High School. Mallory enjoys being around her cattle all the time. Most of Mallory's AJCA friends do not know that she was Miss Miller County and competed in the Arkansas State Fair pageant last fall. Mallory raises commercial cattle. She has successfully shown Charolais, Beefmaster, Braford, Indu Brazil, Red and Grey Brahman, as well as American and exotic commercial heifers and bulls. Mallory's career goal is to become an agriculture teacher. Her goal this year is to AI one of her heifers or to use embryo

transfer in her herd. Mallory says, “I would encourage someone to join AJCA because the organization broadens your horizons. Because of my involvement in AJCA, I have gained invaluable knowledge as well as getting to meet important people in the cattle industry.”

Ryan Lane, age 15 of Siloam Springs is the AJCA Treasurer. His main responsibility in this position is to work with the other board officers and members to secure AJCA sponsors. Ryan is a freshman at Siloam Springs High School. For Ryan, the best thing about showing cattle is all the people you get to meet and network with about the cattle industry. Most of Ryan’s fellow AJCA members do not realize that he only has one kidney! Ryan raises and proudly exhibits Shorthorn and Shorthorn Plus cattle. Ryan’s personal livestock related goal this year is to improve his fitting and showmanship skills. Ryan’s plans include the Air Force. Ryan would like to encourage others to join AJCA. He says, “You will develop the closest friendships of your life! It is also an association full of amazing people

Area Vice President Tate Salmon of Valley Springs is seventeen years old and in the 11th grade. Tate attends Valley Springs High School. He like showing cattle because of all the people he gets to be around and all the fun memories he gets to make. Most people do not know that in his spare time, Tate enjoys welding different projects. Tate’s cattle showing goal is to win the commercial heifer or steer show. Tate plans to attend college and major in agriculture education. His career goal is to become an Ag teacher. Tate encourages fellow cattle showing youth to join AJCA because it promotes both youth and agriculture.

Thirteen-year-old Kendon McAlister of Green Forest is an Area Vice President. He is thirteen and in the 8th grade. He is home schooled. He loves meeting new people and gaining new friends. Showing cattle allows him to do just that. What most people would never believe about Kendon is that at one time he was I was very shy! Kendon shows and raises Maine Anjou, Chianina and Simmental cattle. This year Kendon is focusing on different genetics in his herd with the hopes of raising a national champion. Kendon plans to attend Conner's State College and the University of Arkansas. There he will major in animal science while planning a career in embryology. Kendon says, “Everyone in this association is so friendly and helpful. I would encourage other people to join ACA if they are looking to have a fun time showing cattle as well as learn more about the show industry.”

Area Vice President Sawyer Beggs is eleven years old and in the 5th grade at Mount Ida Middle School. He lives in Sims. Sawyer is an Area Vice President. What most of Sawyer's AJCA friends don't know about him is that he taught himself to play the piano. He enjoys playing music at church. Sawyer enjoys meeting new people and making friends. Sawyer shows LimFlex and Angus cattle. His livestock goal is to win back-to-back showmanship competitions at the Arkansas State Fair. Sawyer plans to one day be a meteorologist. When asked what is the best part of being an AJCA member Sawyer said, "I would say the best thing to me is making new friends and learning more about showing cattle."

Area Vice President Baylee Mangrum is seventeen years old and from Paragould. She is in the 12th grade at Paragould High School. She serves as an Area Vice President. Baylee likes how showing cattle teaches her what hard work means. She enjoys the responsibilities associated with showing and raising cattle. What her fellow AJCA members do not know about Baylee is that she has shown every species of livestock that even includes rabbits and chickens! Baylee raises and shows Shorthorn, Shorthorn Plus, Maine Anjou and Mainetainer cattle. Her goal this year is to be in the in the top three overall showmanship standings for AJCA. Baylee will attend Arkansas State University where she will major in agriculture education. She plans to obtain additional degrees in animal and plant science. Baylee says, "I like the fact that I have gotten to meet people from all over the state that have now become my close friends and the people that are part of the organization make you feel like you're all one big family."

Allyson Sellers is eighteen years old. She is a senior at Vilonia High School. Allyson serves AJCA as an Area Vice President. Allyson's favorite thing to do is working with her cattle. Actually, she loves her cattle. What most of Allyson's cattle showing friends do not know about her is that she plays basketball & softball. She is currently on the track team as a thrower. Allyson raises and shows registered Angus cattle. Her livestock goal this year is to continue growing as a breeder and a showman. She wants to raise the best cattle she possibly can. Allyson plans to obtain an animal science/agriculture business degree with a master in animal physiology. The best thing about being an AJCA member is meeting people from all across the state.

Area Vice President Blaine Wildy is from Manila. He is seventeen-years-old and in the 11th grade at Buffalo Island Central High School. Blaine serves as an Area Vice President. Blaine's shows Chianina, Maine and Mainetainer heifers along with crossbred steers. What people do not know about Blaine is that he is actually not that quiet once you get to know him! Blaine's goal this year for all things in

his life are to be better than he was yesterday. Be better than he was last year. Blaine values the time he is able to spend with his friends while at all the AJCA shows. Blaine's career goal is to graduate from college with a plant science degree. He will then return to the family row crop farm but continue to build his cattle herd.

Kenzie Chambliss, Area Vice President, is from DeBerrie. She is fifteen years old and a freshman at Perryville High School where she is a cheerleader. Kenzie has been showing cattle since age six. She is an avid hunter. Her livestock goal for this year is to learn more about genetics so she can improve her herd. Kenzie shows Hereford and American commercial heifers while assisting her family with their commercial cow/calf operation. She plans a career in agriculture that focuses on forestry. Kenzie says, "The best thing about being an AJCA member is meeting new people who love to show cattle like I do."

Mackenzie Morrison is an Area Vice President. She is 18 years old and in the 11th grade at Mountain Home High School. To Mackenzie, the best part about showing cattle is getting to spend quality time with my family and making new friends. Not many of her cattle showing friends know that in the summer she is a lifeguard at the city pool in Mountain Home. Mackenzie's family raises and show steers as well as a variety of different breeds of bulls and heifers. Her goal this year is to be competitive in the show ring with her new heifer. Mackenzie plans to attend college at Arkansas State University at Mountain Home. After two years, she will transfer to a four-year school where she will pursue a career in agriculture. Mackenzie says that in AJCA you make many friends from all over the state. Those people hat start out as just friends, but then become family.

Eleven-year-old Josie Wilkins of Lamar is in the 6th grade at Lamar Middle School. Josie is an AJCA Area Vice President. Her favorite part of showing is being able to travel around the state and country showing cattle and spending time with friends. Some things other AJCA members may not know about Josie is that she plays softball, basketball and shoots archery. Josie says, "I love to hunt and fish!" Josie shows Chianina, Chi-Angus, Maines, and commercial heifers. Josie's livestock related goal this year is to become a better showman and to become more skilled at fitting her own cattle. Josie plans on becoming a registered nurse and operating my own cow/calf operation. Josie says that the best thing about being an AJCA member is making so many friends that have the same interest as that support and me!

Kacie Bragg of Enola attends the 9th grade at Greenbrier Junior High School. She is 15 years old. Kacie shows Red Angus Cattle. Her fellow AJCA members do not know that she plays the guitar. As part of AJCA, she likes getting to learn more about cattle and developing new friendships. Kacie wants to improve her showmanship skills and attend more shows. Her career goal is to become an agriculture teacher. Kacie would encourage other youth to join the AJCA because it helps you to develop friendships and improves your cattle industry knowledge.

Newly elected AJCA Board member, Kaitlyn Vest of Branch is fourteen years old. She is in the 9th grade at County Line High School. Kaitlyn says, "I love being able to work with and show cattle. It has helped me to learn new information about cattle and is helping me get a head start on my future career as a veterinarian." My fellow AJCA members do not know that five years ago I was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes. Kaitlyn and her family raise and show registered Angus cattle. We also raise commercial Angus cattle. This year she plans to be instrumental in the growth and development of my family's recently founded registered Angus herd. The best thing about being an AJCA Member is that there are numerous opportunities to participate in Livestock Shows and network with other people with the same interests as my own. It gives me a chance to display what I have been working so hard to achieve. The experiences gained while being a member of AJCA will also help me in my future.

In addition to these 15 outstanding leaders, twelve adults serve alongside the youth to advise and assist in carrying out the goals of the Association. AJCA is thankful for their service and many contributions.