

6 Junior Angus members get gold awards

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — The first six recipients of the American Angus Association National Junior Recognition Program's most prestigious honor, the gold award, were announced recently and, with a unanimous vote of a three-member panel of judges, Jennifer Platts of Culpeper, Virginia, was named the outstanding applicant.

Additional gold lapel pin winners were: Jodie Wallace, Ripley, West Virginia; Dale Rains, Mercer, Pennsylvania; Greg Kimzey, Elk City, Kansas; Bruce Kroeker, Hutchinson, Kansas; and Danny Knop, Ida Grove, Iowa.

Each of these young leaders had already attained the first two levels of recognition, the bronze and silver awards, for their accomplishments in Angus association activities, showmanship and heifer competition, performance programs, and producing and merchandising Angus. They're all less than 21 years of age, members of the national Angus association and own Angus cattle, and their work in 4-H and FFA projects, A.I. physical facility improvements and forage improvement programs helped earn their gold honors.

More than a dozen applications for the gold honors were reviewed by judges Gilman Stewart, Indianapolis, Indiana, past president of the American Angus Association; John Crouch, director of the Association's performance programs; and John Kiesewetter, Farmington, Illinois, immediate past chairman of the National Junior Angus Association board of directors.

Jennifer Platts

Jennifer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Platts, grew up on

the family's Turkle Trak Farm near Culpeper, where she is assistant manager of the cow herd. She will graduate next spring from Virginia Polytechnic Institute with a degree in animal science and options in business, marketing, art and design.

Jennifer has been a delegate to the national Angus showmanship contest, and was fourth in the 1978 American Angus Auxiliary scholarship contest. She has been Virginia Angus Queen and secretary-treasurer of the Virginia Junior Angus Association. She was selected as the state's outstanding junior Angus member, and won the 4-H State Outstanding Livestock Exhibitor title.

Jennifer has worked with the Virginia Beef Cattle Improvement Association and was an advertising consultant for a firm at VPI. She's headed for a career in agriculture, probably in the communications field, and hopes some day to have her own farm.

Jodie Wallace

Jodie is a senior in industrial engineering at West Virginia University. The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wallace Jr., Jodie is coordinator of the national junior Angus board of directors' Finance Committee. She has been president and director of her state junior Angus association, and was a state Angus queen.

Jodie has worked on her parents' farm, and also spent several summers working at the nearby Kaiser Aluminum plant. Jodie is on the American Institute of Industrial Engineer's Regional Conference Committee, spent a year as an International Rotary Exchange Student, and was a nominee to the U.S. Naval Academy.

Dale Rains

Dale was a member of the National Junior Angus Association board of directors last year, and was the first chairman of the group's Rules Committee. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Austin C. Rains, Dale has been president and vice president of the Northeastern, Pennsylvania and Western Pennsylvania junior Angus Associations, and was coordinator of the 1979 Eastern Regional Junior Heifer Show.

Dale's Angus herd numbers 45 head. He has worked for several Angus operations, giving him considerable cattle fitting experience, and was a finalist in the 1979 national Angus showmanship contest.

A senior in animal production at Pennsylvania State University, Dale has worked in the college beef barns, was a member of the livestock and meat judging teams, is an active member of the Block and Bridle Club.

Greg Kimzey

A former president, vice president and secretary of the Kansas Junior Angus Association, Greg is a Kansas State University student. He will graduate in 1982 in animal science and industry with a production option, then plans to return to the family farm near Elk City. Greg's parents are David and Patricia Kimzey.

Greg is a member of the Kansas State meat and livestock judging

teams, works at the school's purebred beef barn, and is Block and Bridle Club marshal and president of the Little American Royal committee. He's a National Honor Society member and a two-year recipient of the Kansas State Willis-Griffing scholarship.

Bruce Kroeker

Bruce is serving his second term on the National Junior Angus Association board of directors. He's been president of the Kansas Junior Angus Association, placed second in 1978 national Angus showmanship, is a Kansas Angus scholarship recipient, was the 1980 "Junior of the Year" award winner, and spent three years as 4-H beef leader for his county.

A junior in animal science at Kansas State University, Bruce is the son of Eldo and Grace Kroeker, and is a voting member of Kroeker Angus Inc.

Before transferring to Kansas State Bruce attended Hutchinson Junior College, where he was awarded an ag leadership scholarship and was a judging team member. He is a member of Kansas State's Block and Bridle Club and was nominated to the International Achievement of Agriculture.

Danny Knop

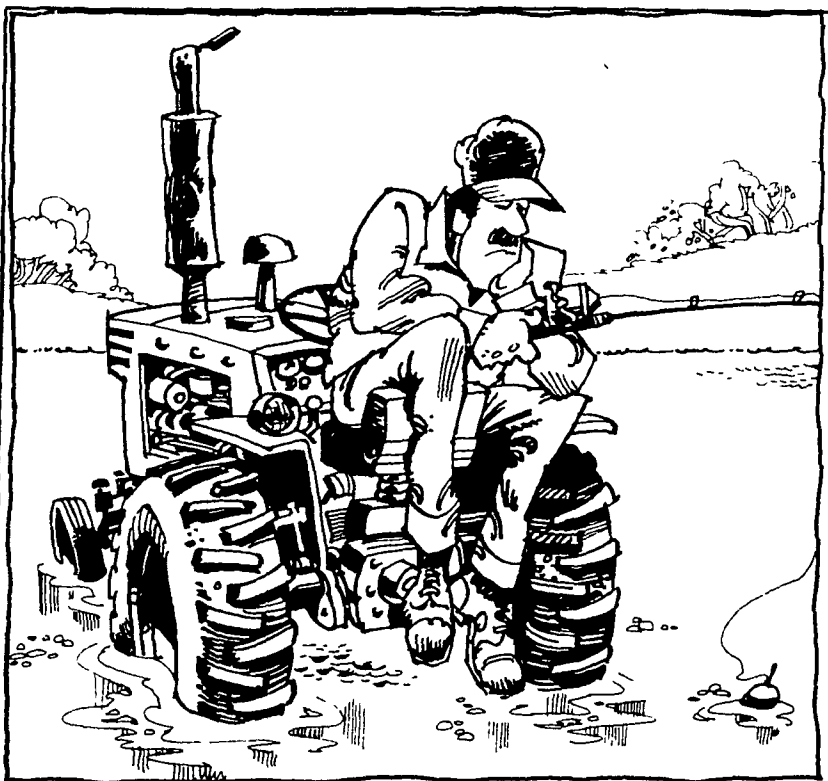
Danny is an animal science graduate of Hawkeye Institute of Technology and works with his parents, Eugene and Colleen Knop, on Knop Angus Farm. He also has land, cattle and machinery of his own. Among other responsibilities, Danny is in charge of the farm's A.I. program, and has improved conception rates by 15% in the last two years.

A veteran to the showing, Danny received honorable mention in the 1980 National Showmanship Contest. He also was a member of Iowa's Angus Bowl team that competed in the 1980 national contest. Danny has been president, vice president and director of the Iowa Junior Angus Association, and was an active 4-H and FFA member.

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