All-American Collegiate Livestock Judging Awards Presented at National Livestock Judging Contest Awards Breakfast

By Matt Spivey

Eleven college seniors were named All-Americans on at the 112th National Collegiate Livestock Judging Contest Awards Breakfast held at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, Kentucky held on November 14th. The All-American program recognizes students who have made a personal commitment to livestock judging and have excelled in academics, university and industry activities, and community service. The program was initiated by the University Livestock Judging Coaches Association in 2000, making this the 18th year the awards have been presented. The average GPA of this year’s recipients is an impressive 3.83.

The following eleven honorees representing five universities make up our 2017 All-American team.

Chase Gleason, Kansas State University. He is Student Manager at the KSU Purebred Beef Unit, Animal Sciences and Industry Leadership Academy, Block and Bridle and Collegiate Farm Bureau. He conducted undergraduate research on a heifer vaccination study to evaluate immunoglobin levels in colostrum. Chase worked as a loan officer trainee during internships with Frontier Farm Credit and Farm Services Agency. He was a member of the K-State National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation team, winning high individual overall in the contest as well as high individual at Iowa Beef Expo this past February. In addition, he was a Junior College All-American Livestock Judging team member at Fort Scott Community College. He plans to complete his degree in Agricultural Economics and pursue a career in the agricultural lending field.

Callahan Grund, Kansas State. Callahan is President of the KSU College of Agriculture Competition Teams’ Council in addition to a President’s Ambassador, Collegiate Farm Bureau member and student representative on the search committee for the Department Head of Animal Sciences and Industry. He also served a four-year term on the American Gelbvieh Junior Association Board of Directors. His internships included Office of the Secretary and Office of Emergency Management for the Kansas Department of Agriculture. He was a member of the National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation team and was recognized as a Junior College All American at Fort Scott. He plans to pursue a Master of Science degree in Ruminant Nutrition with his sights set on becoming a consulting nutritionist with the feed industry.

Caseelynn Johnston, University of Illinois. She is an Ambassador for the Agricultural Education Department, Reporter for Hoof and Horn Club and Classroom Educational Chair for Sigma Alpha Sorority. Her industry experiences include social media intern for Illinois State Fair, conference facilitator for Illinois FFA, student employee for Illinois Association FFA Center and account manager for a Farm Management software firm. She is also a member of the American Angus, American Shorthorn and Illinois Pork Producers Associations. Caseelynn plans to pursue a career in teaching following graduation, first as a high school Agriculture Educator and FFA
advisor and then pursue graduate degrees in Agricultural Education to eventually teach and conduct research at the university level.

**Jessica Judge**, Oklahoma State University. Jessica has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA in college and has been recognized on the President’s Honor roll. She is a member of the American Angus, Simmental, Shorthorn and Hereford Associations. Jessica served as President of the California Junior Shorthorn Association and Secretary of the California Junior Angus Association. She has held internships with Legacy Livestock Imaging, Martin Show Cattle and Miller Cattle and Feed yards. She was high individual overall at the Dixie National and Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo contests and a member of winning teams at Arizona National, Fort Worth, Dixie National, Houston and Tulsa. Jessica was also a member of Reserve National Champion FFA Livestock Judging and OSU Meat Animal Evaluation teams. She was recognized as a Junior College All-American at Butler Community College. Her career goal includes a leadership position in the livestock industry such as a breed association president or university youth programs coordinator.

**Brooke Jensen**, Kansas State University. Brooke is an active member of the Block and Bridle, Collegiate Cattlewomen and Agricultural Economics/Agribusiness clubs. She is a student worker for the Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness serving as an Assistant Academic Coordinator. She participated in the K-State Animal Science Leadership Academy and was selected for a study abroad opportunity to Ireland. Brooke also served as Leadership Chair for the National Junior Hereford Association Board of Directors. Her internship experiences include working with Cargill Protein on Walmart Consumer Insights and the Beef Sales teams. Brooke was a member of the National Champion KSU Meat Animal Evaluation team. She will graduate in December with a degree in Agribusiness and hopes to pursue a Master’s degree in Agribusiness leading to a career in Sales and Marketing as a Brand Manager for a major food or agribusiness firm such as Cargill.

**Katilyn Lewter**, University of Tennessee. Katilyn was selected for the Chancellor’s Honors Program and National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She currently serves as President of the Block and Bridle and was named the Outstanding Junior in the Department of Animal Science. She has shadowed a veterinarian, Dr. Mike Harry, who specialized in equine reproduction and in addition worked for the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Tennessee. Katilyn was a member of the UT horse judging team and finished sixth high individual overall at the Southeastern livestock judging contest this past spring. Her future goals include attending the College of Veterinary Medicine and combining this with a Master of Science degree in Equine Reproduction.

**Faith Onstot**, Oklahoma State University. Faith is a member of Block and Bridle, Collegiate Cattlewomen, and Collegiate Horsemen organizations. She is also a member of the American Simmental, American Brahman Breeders, American Paint Horse and American Quarter Horse associations. She won high point individual overall twice at the Junior National Classic for the American Junior Simmental Association. Faith was a member of the World Champion Horse Judging team at OSU winning sixth high individual overall, a member of the Reserve National Champion Meat Animal Evaluation team and a member of the OSU livestock judging team.
which has won 5 national contests. Upon receiving her degree at Oklahoma State, she plans to attend law school and specialize in patent litigation and intellectual property rights.

**Hope Onstot**, Oklahoma State University. Hope is involved with Block and Bridle, Collegiate Cattlewomen, Alpha Zeta, Collegiate 4-H and Collegiate Horsemen’s Association. Her community service involvement included coaching winning 4-H horse judging teams, Texas Special Olympics, Relay for Life, Ronald McDonald house, Coats for Kids and Stillwater Harvest Carnival. Her judging team honors include Champion Horse Judging team at the World Quarter Horse Show where she was high individual overall and was also member of the Reserve National Champion Meat Evaluation team. Following graduation, she plans to attend graduate school at Texas A&M pursuing a master’s degree in Business or Agribusiness with hopes to eventually working in product development and marketing. She plans to continue raising Simmental, Simbrah and Brahman Cattle.

**Gracia Ramp**, University of Illinois. Gracia has maintained a 4.0 GPA at both junior and senior college. She is a member of the Hoof n’ Horn Club serving as Spring Showdown Chair, Collegiate 4-H and the Agricultural Education club. Her internship experience with the Illinois FFA Center consisted of coordination of the Illinois State FFA convention. She grew up as a member of the Illinois and National Junior Angus associations. She has participated on meat animal evaluation and livestock judging teams at University of Illinois, livestock judging team at Lakeland and her high school team won the State FFA livestock judging contest. Upon graduation, Gracia plans to attend graduate school in Agricultural Education at either Texas A&M University or University of Illinois with a career goal of teaching agricultural courses at a community college and serving as an advisor for student organizations.

**Leah Scholz**, Kansas State University. At K-State, Leah is a Transfer Student Ambassador, Secretary/Reporter of Block and Bridle and a member of Collegiate Farm Bureau. She was an intern with the Kansas State Beef Cattle Research Center assisting with data collection for numerous trials. She also conducted an undergraduate beef cattle research study on “Megasphaera elsdenii and gas production”. Leah is a Certified Angus Beef Colvin Scholar and a member of Angus, Brangus, Lowline and Simmental Cattle Associations. She plans to pursue graduate studies in Beef Cattle Production and ultimately work for a major beef cattle breed association as Director of Commercial Programs.

**Ty Shockley**, University of Wyoming. Ty serves as a Justice with the University of Wyoming Judicial Council and was named Outstanding Senior in the College of Business. On campus, he serves as Treasurer of Alpha Kappa Psi, Accounting Tutor for Beta Alpha Psi and member of UW Transfer Student Advisory Committee. Ty has served as President and Advisor for the Wyoming Junior Angus Association. Ty was a White House intern with Vice Presidential Operations last summer. He has been a member of the Casper (Community) College and University of Wyoming livestock judging teams. Upon graduating in May 2018 with Bachelor of Science degrees in Agricultural Business and Accounting, he hopes to become a Certified Public Accountant. After working for a couple of years, his goal is to further his education with a joint M.B.A./J.D. degree from the University of Virginia or Duke and then pursue a career in politics in Washington, D.C.
All-American Award winners were nominated by their respective coaches and Animal Science Departments. A panel of current and former animal science department administrators from across the county reviewed the nominees and selected the award winners. Dr. Mark McCann, University of Georgia; Dr. Jim Heird, Texas A&M University, Dr. James Kinder, The Ohio State University and Dr. Maynard Hogberg, Iowa State University served as this year’s judges.