

Make plans to attend
the 2024 Regional and
National Classics

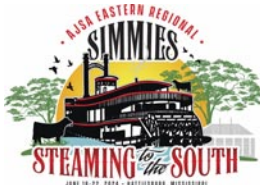


North Central Regional

June 12–15, 2024

Hutchinson, KS

Hosted by the Kansas Simmental Association



Eastern Regional

June 18–22, 2024

Hattiesburg, MS

Hosted by the Mississippi Simmental Association



Western Regional

June 26–29, 2024

Miles City, MT

Hosted by the Montana Simmental Association

National Classic

July 8–14, 2024

Tulsa, OK

Hotel information will be coming soon.
Please check the AJSA website and Facebook for updates.

Mia Bayer

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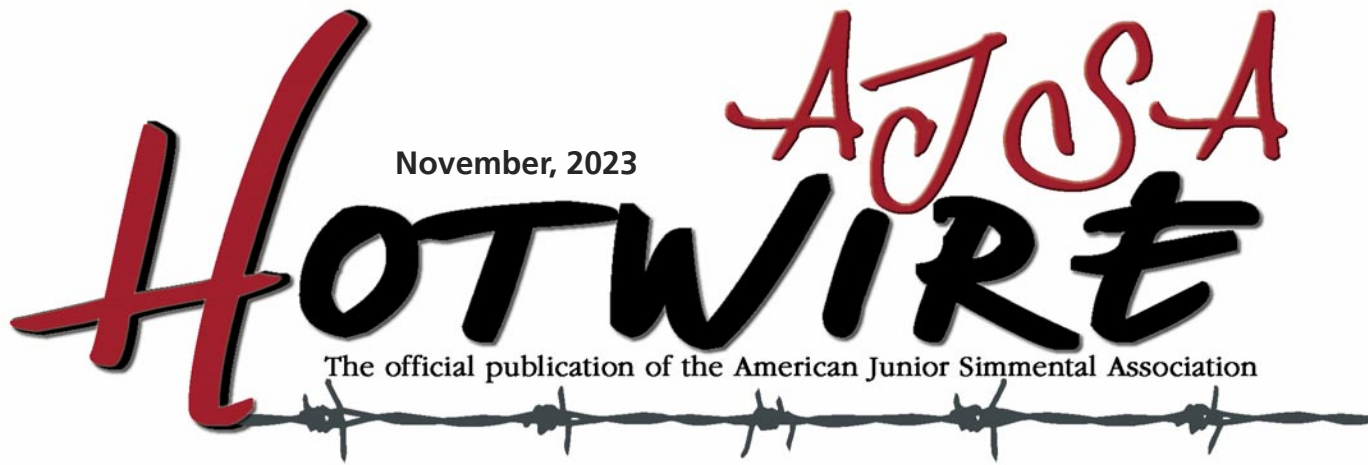
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Scenes from the National Classic



Correct Answers:			
	Name	Hype Song	
Walker	Rocky Top	Emerson	Brand New Man
Anna	White Horse	Kaitlyn	I Love Rock 'N Roll
Hallie	Aggie War Hymn	Jazlynn	We Will Rock You
Anna	Kryptonite	Bella	How You Remind Me
Garrett	It's a Long Way to the Top	Matt	Here For a Good Time
Chase	The Star Spangled Banner	Jonna	Poker Face
Blake	Fortunate Son		



“Funded in part by the American Simmental-Simbrah Foundation”

President's Corner

Kaitlyn Cloud, AJSA president

It is officially my favorite time of the year! The weather is starting to cool off (kind of), fall sales are underway, and everyone is getting ready for fall shows. We as a junior board are preparing for our fall meetings and for all the PTP shows coming up.

While we are excited about the fall, I just wanted to reflect on how great of a summer we had, from attending Regional Classics in Utah, Missouri, and Ohio, to spending a week in the great state of Iowa for the National Classic. It doesn't matter if you attended Regionals or the National Classic; the memories are endless, laughs are warranted, and goals were achieved. Regardless of where we are, every moment we spend at an AJSA event makes us realize just how blessed we are to be a part of the greatest association.

This summer the AJSA board tried out some new and different things with contests and activities during the week. We are constantly trying to find new ways to improve and further the AJSA. While the board had a great time this summer, we are even more excited to see you all in the upcoming months.

Keep an eye out for all the gray jackets at the upcoming Majors and stop by and say hello! We look forward to seeing you all throughout the remainder of the year.



Kaitlyn Cloud



2023–2024 AJSA Trustees

Editor's Note: Check out the American Simmental Association's **SimmAPP** to stay up-to-date on the latest ASA, AJSA, and beef industry news. SimmAPP is available on Google Play, Apple Store, and Amazon Appstore.

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Junior of the Year



by Hallie Hackett
South Central Region trustee



Garrett Jones – Texas

How long have you been involved with the AJSA? (You can talk about the TJSSA here too!)

I have been a member of the AJSA from 2018 to present, attending three Regional and three National Classics. I have also been a part of the Texas Junior Simmental/Simbrah Association since 2018. I have attended four state futurities and am currently serving as an eastern region director.

What is your favorite contest and why?

The Calvin Drake Genetic Evaluation Quiz is my favorite educational contest because I am always accepting of a challenge and this event allows me to compete using my mind without relying on my eyesight. Furthermore, I have a passion for animal pedigrees and the value that EPD provides to the industry.

What are your future goals?

I want to continue to improve my performance in the educational contests, and my long-term goal is to win first overall at an AJSA National Classic. After high school, I plan to attend Texas A&M University to pursue a degree in agribusiness and a masters in business administration.

Can you describe your vision for those who may not know you?

My specific eye condition is called optic nerve atrophy, and this results in degeneration of the optic nerve. I have approximately 20/700 vision, meaning what a person with normal sight can see at 700 feet I see at 20 feet. To put this into perspective, I can only see about two-thirds of the way down my show stick when it is outstretched toward my animal’s back feet. This is why in a show ring setting I will have an assistant to help with calf feet alignment and judge motions. I have also learned to place a zip tie on the handle of my show stick so I can tell where the hook is in relation to my hand.

How did it feel to be announced as junior of the year?

Amazing! I shed tears when I returned to my stalls. It felt like an affirmation of my hard work to overcome the struggles that result from my vision. I want to thank the AJSA Board for this tremendous honor. I would also like to thank anyone else who has supported me in this industry by providing reading or show ring assistance and/or mentorship.

Is there anything else you’d like people to know about you?

I would like everyone to be aware that if we meet in passing, I may not recognize you from your voice. Please do not think I am being rude if I do not speak or do not know who you are. You can help me by introducing yourself before you begin speaking. Additionally, I want to use my circumstances to help me serve as a role model for other members (or potential members) of this industry and especially those with disabilities. I hope they see my accomplishments as encouragement.

Mentor/Mentee Program



by Walker Housley
Eastern Region trustee

Every year at the AJSA National Classic, exhibitors have the opportunity to participate in the Mentor/Mentee Program. Among the busy schedule and hectic week, first-time participants get paired with seasoned professionals to learn the ropes of all Simmental activities. The Leadership Committee, headed by the vice president of Leadership, leads the charge. As a board, we believe in the future of the Simmental breed and emphasize recruiting new, involved members.

This year, I led the Leadership Committee to organize and orchestrate the Mentor/Mentee Program at the National Classic in Des Moines, Iowa. As a new and creative outlook, we created an intense three-day scavenger hunt that led exhibitors across the fairgrounds looking for clues hidden at sponsor booths, breeder stalls, and historical fairground landmarks. This allowed for new exhibitors to get to meet the faces behind the Simmental breed. At the end of the week, the Leadership Committee selects an Outstanding Mentor and Outstanding Mentee award to recognize the deserving participants. This year, the Mentor/Mentee program kicked off on opening day of the National Classic with a record number of over 100 participants.

The leadership of the American Junior Simmental Association is hopeful for the future of agriculture, livestock production, and Simmental cattle. Our way of impacting tomorrow is investing in today's youth. For many new exhibitors, the week of the National Classic can be overwhelming, but the efforts of the Mentor/Mentee program allow many first-time exhibitors the ability to thrive in the environment of the AJSA.



Cash Rumble – Indiana

Do you use music to focus and get ready for competition? Each member of the AJSA Board of Trustees has shared their favorite hype song. Try to match the song with the board member!

Here For a Good Time We Will Rock You	The Star Spangled Banner It's a Long Way to the Top Rocky Top	Kryptonite I Love Rock 'N Roll White Horse	Brand New Man Aggie War Hymn How You Remind Me	Fortunate Son Poker Face
	_____		_____	
	_____		_____	
	_____		_____	
	_____		_____	
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	_____		_____	

See answers on back page.

How the ASF Supports the AJSA



by Emerson Tarr
North Central Region trustee



There is an organization that does more for the American Junior Simmental Association (AJSA) than most of our members know. This organization is behind the scenes and interconnected through the many branches of the AJSA. This organization is the American Simmental–Simbrah Foundation (ASF).

The ASF was formed in 1995, and has since supported the betterment of the AJSA and its members.

The ASF board, a group of 13 committee members, uses funds donated to the AJSA to support our youth development programs and continue to build the Simmental breed.

All the AJSA events would not be possible without the support of the ASF board members. I asked a few of these people who have an important role questions related to their experience on the ASF board.

How does the ASF support the AJSA?

Tonya Phillips: “Throughout the year, the ASF supports the AJSA in multiple ways. When someone donates they can designate it to one of four pillars, including Youth, Education, Research, and General Fund. Each of these pillars involves programs that help develop AJSA members’ knowledge of the Simmental breed and the beef industry. The support can come in the form of new blazers for AJSA trustees, travel expenses to conferences, Fall Focus, National Classic facility support, Merit Awards, etc.”

How does the ASF connect the AJSA to the American Simmental Association?

Jennifer Tarr: “The ASF connects the AJSA to the ASA by providing programs such as the Steer Profitability Competition, which gives junior members access to real-world feeding opportunities, which directly align with the impact the ASA is working to make on the cattle industry through SimGenetics.”

Why did you want to get involved with ASF?

Greg Burden: “When I got on the ASF Board, it was a way to give back to the youth with my time and by raising money (at that time we were only raising \$80,000 to \$100,000 per year). With the group of dedicated individuals that are on the board now, we are raising in the neighborhood of \$200,000 a year and are always trying to improve.”

What are your goals for the ASF?

Tonya Phillips: “I would love for more breeders to donate to the ASF, whether monetarily or by adding a Legacy Lot to their annual production sale. We need to develop a program that encourages AJSA members to donate to the ASF once they become ASA members. I think we need to seek out more corporate sponsors and work on more scholarship opportunities for our AJSA members.”

Jennifer Tarr: “We have a successful ASF with limited personnel resources. It is my goal to continue to advocate for a full-time Foundation Manager for our association’s future success.”

Greg Burden: “Even though we have missed several opportunities over the past ten years with high-net-worth individuals dispersing, I would still like to see the ASF build to a multi-million-dollar organization so we can continue to give more scholarships with higher dollar amounts.”

What is your favorite fundraiser/activity that the ASF puts on?

Tonya Phillips: “My favorite fundraiser is the Silent Auction that is held each year during the AJSA National Classic. It isn’t necessarily the ‘biggest’ fundraiser, but it is fun to see how creative people get with their donations. I love to see this commitment to the AJSA.”

Jennifer Tarr: “My new favorite fundraiser was the cookoff contest at the AJSA National Classic this past summer in Des Moines. This was the inaugural contest, and it would be great to see more contestants participate in that event next year.”

Greg Burden: “My favorite would have to be the ASF heifer fundraiser. I have been the most effective at raising money for the ASF heifer, which is the main driver for the Merit Awards. I have been involved with that project over many years, but I’ve been able to be the greatest help the last couple of years in the Bricktown National sale at Cattlemen’s Congress.”

These board members are the reason the AJSA can continue to grow the next generation of Simmental enthusiasts. When you see one of these three or any other Foundation board member give them a HUGE thank you because they deserve it!