

2023 AJSA Events

June 1 – Bronze, Silver, and Gold Merit Scholarship applications, Trustee applications, Photography contest due.
Send to ajsa@simmgene.com

June 7–10 – AJSA Eastern Regional Classic, Lima, OH

June 21–24 – AJSA South Central Regional Classic, Springfield, MO

July 7–13 – AJSA National Classic, Des Moines, IA

**All deadlines are Mountain Daylight Time*

Please check www.juniorsimmental.org
and Facebook for updates.

Make plans to attend the 2023 Regional and National Classics

Eastern Regional

June 7–10, 2023

Lima, Ohio

Hosted by the Ohio Simmental Association

South Central Regional

June 21–24, 2023

Springfield, Missouri

Hosted by the Missouri Simmental Association

Western Regional

Dates and location to be determined



National Classic

July 7–13, 2023

Des Moines, Iowa

Hosted by the Iowa Simmental Association

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

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An Interview with Jordan Stephans



by Walker Housley
Eastern Regional trustee



Jordan Stephans

Jordan Stephans is no stranger to the AJSA scene. Stephans, along with his parents, are first-generation Simmental breeders reigning from the great state of Kentucky. He became involved in the Kentucky Junior Simmental Association and AJSA at a young age. Since then, his passion for the breed and his Simmental family has grown tremendously. After his very successful junior career, Jordan has graduated from Black Hawk East College and has now taken a position as assistant herdsman at Circle M Farms. This year, the AJSA was proud to recognize Jordan Stephans as our 2022 Junior Herdsman of the Year. We took a moment this fall to interview Jordan about some of his experiences in the cattle industry.

1.) Who is your biggest role model in the cattle industry and how have they inspired you to reach this level of recognition?

It's very hard to single out one role model. There are countless people who have influenced me and helped me get to the point where I am today. If I had to name one though, I view my dad as my biggest role model. Without him our operation would not be where it is today and I would not have been given many of the opportunities over the years. Growing up, I watched dad work a full-time job and then come home and work countless hours on the farm. He always sacrificed for me and my family and made sure we never went without. He has taught me a lot of things, from farm skills to life lessons. When we started in the Simmental business, we still had a lot to learn. He taught me if you're willing to work and want something bad enough, you can make your dreams possible. He has pushed me further than I realized I was capable of going at times, but always to try to make me better.

2.) What does it mean to you to be the 2022 AJSA Herdsman of the Year?

It's a great honor to be named the 2022 AJSA Herdsman of the Year. I was very excited when I was selected at the awards banquet that evening. Although I was chosen, after the ceremony I kept thinking about all those around me who helped me achieve something of this level. I am certain without the influence of others upon me, achieving that would not have been possible. It means a lot to me and I will always be grateful and humbled as a recipient of this award. Thank you to the American Simmental Association and the Foundation who graciously donated the tuition for the Graham School for Cattlemen as a part of the Herdsman Award. I am very excited to attend Graham School as I know the skills I learn there will be very crucial to my success as a breeder and cattleman.

3.) Why Simmental?

We had some friends who had Simmental cattle and recommended we should show them. It only took one summer and we were hooked. I was young at my first regional classic, but remember how welcoming and down-to-earth everyone in the barn was. We really liked the environment and hospitality. Along with that, we enjoyed Simmental cattle and their breed strengths and never really looked back.

4.) Favorite Show Memory?

My favorite show memory would be winning supreme champion breeding heifer at the Kentucky State Fair. It was my first big win. I was speechless when I was given the champion slap and well-known high five from Mr. Jim Bloomberg. He was without a doubt one of the most influential stockmen and an industry leader. His passion for the Simmental breed and helping the youth did not go unnoticed.

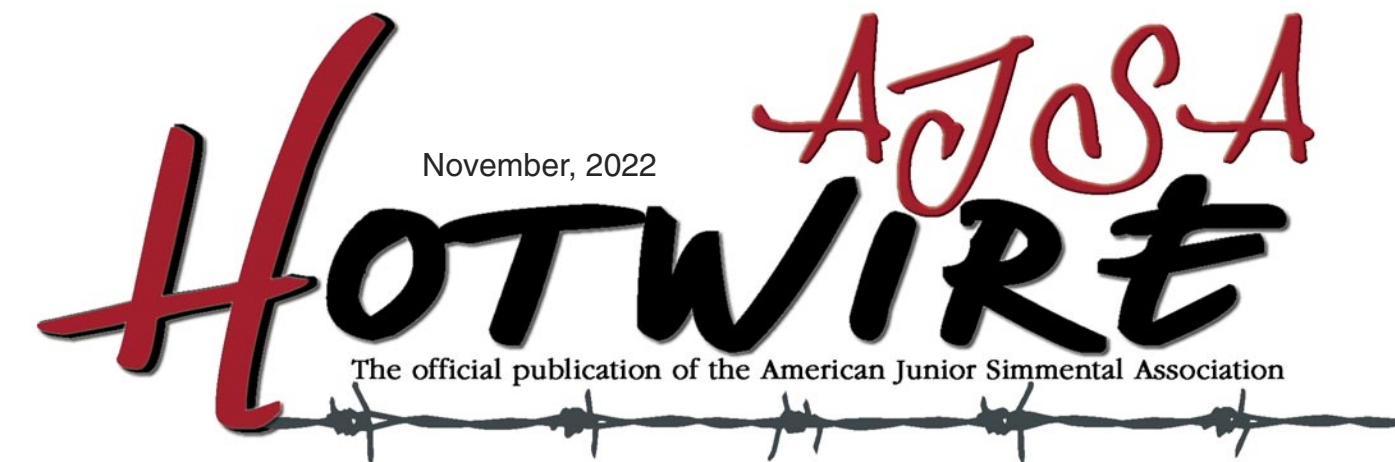
5.) Favorite Quote?

I'm not sure if I just have one favorite quote. One that always sticks with me and comes to mind though is: "Good enough is not good enough if it can be better. And better is not good enough if it can be best." - Rick Rigsby.

Have something you would like to see in the Hotwire?

Email us at ajsa@simmgene.com or send us a message on Facebook!

Are you social media savvy? Follow us on Twitter & Instagram,
and don't forget to like us on Facebook!



"Funded in part by the American Simmental-Simbrah Foundation"

President's Corner

Luke Harker, AJSA president

Reflecting on the summer, the AJSA board had a spectacular time attending the Regional show in Lebanon, Indiana, and celebrating a Simmental Summer at the National Classic in Madison, Wisconsin. The memories made with members, families, and friends as we gathered to do what we love are second to none! We always seek to provide AJSA members with the best environment to learn something new, develop their leadership skills, and create new connections that will last a lifetime!

Autumn is upon us — school is well underway, sale season is in full swing, and many are hard at work preparing for the fall Majors. In October, the AJSA board spent a weekend in Ames, Iowa, for our fall board meeting, where we tackled judge selection for the 2023 National Classic. In addition, we addressed items brought to our attention and discussed further improvements to the AJSA for our growing membership; we want to ensure we can continue expanding in the years to come. The entire board is looking forward to seeing familiar faces and making new connections as we attend the North American, Cattlemen's Congress, National Western Stock Show, and Fort Worth Stock Show.

We are incredibly grateful for Clear Water Simmental's gracious donation of the Foundation Female who will sell in Oklahoma City at the Cattlemen's Congress. We thank them for their generous contribution in support of the AJSA. Keep an eye out for the gray jackets at the Majors and stop by and say hello. We look forward to seeing you all throughout the year!



Luke Harker



2022–2023 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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The 2022 Reserve Supreme Bred & Owned Heifer



by Martha Moenning
North Central Region trustee

The competitive nature of show day at the National Classic is truly unmatched. However, the anticipation of entering the Bred & Owned ring is an even more memorable experience. In Madison, Wisconsin, this year, Beau Peine capped off his junior career with reserve champion honors.

Peine is from the small town of Miesville, Minnesota, where he resides on the family farm. Originally his great grandfather's dairy and crop farm, the Peine family purchased a couple commercial beef cows when he was young. They quickly transitioned to Simmental show heifers and attended their first AJSA National Classic in Des Moines, Iowa. After this experience in 2010, the

family changed to their current focus of showing and selling calves.

Peine shared about his Reserve Supreme Bred & Owned Heifer, "She is a WLE Copacetic E02 daughter out of a cow we call Jada. Jada is a Broker x Hot Rod cow that we purchased from the Purfeerst Family in Minnesota. Jada was our family's show heifer for 2020 and was many-time champion in the ring. She went on to lay down and give us 'Jaden,' our Reserve Supreme Bred & Owned Female with her first calf!"

Peine described that catching a piece of the Bred & Owned show was an exciting accomplishment since she was only a calf.



AJSA State Display Competition



by Hallie Hackett
South Central Region trustee

At the AJSA National Classic, the state display competition allows juniors to promote and advocate for their state associations, their regions, and SimGenetics. The booths created for this competition are put together by individual junior state associations. These displays are utilized to share information about state associations and accomplishments of juniors in the state, promote activities of the association and/or breed, and advocate all cattle connected to the AJSA. States are encouraged to create trade show booths or live cattle displays to enter into the competition.

The Kentucky Junior Simmental Association created the champion booth at the 2022 National Classic. Laura Jackson, secretary of the Kentucky Simmental Association, coordinated the display. "It is an excellent way to showcase the juniors in the state and their involvement, and highlight their successes,"

Jackson said. "It is a good way to incorporate facts about your state that others may not know."

Any state junior association is welcome and encouraged to compete. Jackson gives a tip for junior state associations looking to compete: "Start out simple. Pick a few things to highlight about your state, also be sure to really incorporate your juniors as well."

Booths provide the perfect opportunity to illustrate the effort of juniors in the AJSA, feature the accomplishments of the individuals in state associations, advertise upcoming events, and endorse SimGenetics. Further information and rules for interested associations can be found under "Additional Competitions" in the Regional and National Classic Rules. We hope to see booths representing each and every state at the 2023 National Classic!

AJSA'S WHERE IN THE USA

The Trustees' Travels at a Glance



The Trustees' initials mark their hometown. Find their school's logo to see where they are now.

EASTERN REGION



LH
Luke Harker
Hope, IN
Kansas State University



MK
Matt Koverman
Minford, OH
Ohio State University



WH
Walker Housley
Dayton, TN
Rhea County High School



GW
Garrett Walthers
Centerville, IN
Purdue University

NORTH CENTRAL REGION



MM
Martha Moening
Hayfield, MN
South Dakota State University



ET
Emerson Tarr
LeRoy, IL
Lake Land College



JH
Jazlynn Hilbrands
Holloway, MN
South Dakota State University

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION



KC
Kaitlyn Cloud
Carthage, MO
Texas A&M University



RA
Rylee Abney
Watonga, OK
Epic Charter School



BH
Blake Henrichs
Okarche, OK
Redlands Community College



HH
Hallie Hackett
Texarkana, TX
Hooks High School

WESTERN REGION



JM
Jonna McCullough
Fort Benton, MT
Casper College



BB
Bella Beins
Deweyville, UT
South Utah University



SS
Sydney Schwenk
Boring, OR
Linn Benton Community College



BF
Blake Fabrizio
Carr, CO
University of Wyoming

Catching Up with Kierstan Jass, Former AJSA President



by Blake Fabrizio
Western Region trustee

How did the skills and relationships you built while in the AJSA help you to succeed?

While attending the Classics, competing in the educational contests has played an integral role in getting to where I am today. After competing in Sales Talk over the years, I knew I wanted to pursue a career in ag sales. With my time in the AJSA I met some of my best friends and lifelong connections.

What did you enjoy most about your time in the AJSA?

Being involved in the AJSA, the Classics, and the Summit Youth Leadership Conference were always my favorites. Being able to connect with old friends and make new friends at these events were always highlights of my summer.

After graduating from Iowa State University, what career path have you taken and what would you recommend to juniors in pursuit of a similar career?

After graduation I took a job with Landus, which is the largest cooperative in Iowa. I work as an account lead working with farmers on making grain marketing strategies to balance risk, along with planning and executing chemical and fertilizer plans. To juniors looking at a career in agronomy sales I would recommend finding someone in the field to learn and gain experience from. Getting involved in college organizations is also critical as the connections that are made become a great stepping stone for the future of your career.

Can you give us any insight on what to expect from the 2023 National Classic in Des Moines, Iowa, and what the juniors have to look forward to?

Iowa is excited to host the 2023 National Classic with plans in the works. It should be a great week with many fun activities for juniors.



Junior of the Year



by Kaitlyn Cloud
South Central Region trustee

This past summer at the 2022 National Classic we awarded the AJSA Junior of the Year to Braydon Cull from Missouri. The AJSA Board created this award to recognize juniors who are committed and dedicated to the AJSA and want to make it a better association. It stands for much more than just someone who attends National Classics. It is to spotlight juniors who are constantly putting in the effort, even if they do not get their name called repeatedly.

This award gives us the opportunity to highlight our outstanding junior members. We believe that Cull was the per-

fect fit for this award for many reasons. He combines what we envision an outstanding junior should embody as a person and an exhibitor. I constantly see him with a smile on his face and always offering a helping hand to those around him. Not only is he an exceptional person and junior member, but his drive and dedication to the Simmental breed is second to none. Once you get to know him, you realize you have a friend for life.



Braydon Cull