

# 2021 AJSA Events

April 15 – Regional and National Classic entries open through your herdbook account.

April 29 – Regional and National Classic **EARLY** entry deadline 4:30 pm MDT (registration fees double after 4:30 pm MDT)

May 5 – Regional and National Classic **FINAL** entry deadline - 4:30 pm MDT

June 1 – Photography Contest, Trustee Application, Silver and Gold Merit Award application deadline. Application forms available on juniorsimmental.org.

June 2 – 5th – Eastern Regional Classic, Cookeville, TN

June 9 – 12th – South Central Regional Classic, Springfield, MO

June 16 – 19th – Western Regional Classic, Sandpoint, ID

June 26 – July 2 – National Classic, Grand Island, NE

*\*All deadlines are Mountain Daylight Time*

## Regional Classic Hotel Information

### Eastern Region Hotel Lodging Information

#### Host Hotel: Country Inn & Suites

1151 S. Jefferson Ave • Cookeville, TN 38506  
931-525-6668  
Rate: \$90 for room  
Rate: \$96 for Queen Suite or Junior Suite  
Block expires May 21, 2021

#### Quality Inn

970 S Jefferson Ave • Cookeville, TN 38501  
931-526-7125  
Rate: \$68 (CAUTION: This hotel will be under some heavy construction during our dates.)  
Block Expires May 1, 2021

#### Comfort Inn & Suites

1045 Interstate Drive • Cookeville, TN 38501  
931-372-0086  
Rate: \$84  
Block Expires April 1, 2021

#### Fairfield Inn

1200 Sams Street • Cookeville, TN 38506  
931-854-1050  
Rate: \$99  
Block expires May 11, 2021

#### 40 campsites available.

Electric & Water • Dump Station on site  
\$20 per day

Reserve with Cathy Ivey at 865-548-7983 or Cnivey.pvf@gmail.com

### South Central Region Hotel Lodging Information

#### Holiday Inn and Suites

2720 S. Glenstone Ave • Springfield, MO 65803  
417-865-8600  
Group Code: OEF

Block Dates: 06/08/2021 – 06/12/2021

Rate: \$82.00 per night

#### Camping is available at the Ozark Empire Fairgrounds.

30 Amp Sites - \$30 per night

50 Amp Sites - \$35 per night

\*\*To reserve a camping spot, please call Paul Eck at 417-833-2660

### Western Region Hotel Information

#### Best Western Plus

477326 Hwy 95 North • Ponderay, ID 83852  
208-255-4500  
\$130/night Kings, \$140/night 2 Queens

#### Hotel Ruby's Ave

477255 US-95 • Ponderay, ID 83852  
208-263-5383  
\$104/night

#### Camping

Available at the Fairgrounds

Make camping reservations online at [www.bonnercountyfair.com](http://www.bonnercountyfair.com). \$25/night

**Hotels are filling fast.**

## AJSA 2020-2021 Board of Trustees

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### Jonna McCullough

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### What do you plan on studying and why?

"I plan to get a degree in animal science and eventually, further degrees in animal breeding and genetics. I hope to one day perform genetic research regarding cattle production or what genes control meat production in cattle or sheep."

– Sara Sweat, South Central Region Trustee

"I am currently a student at Texas A&M University majoring in Animal Science. I plan to apply to vet school in the future."

– Teegan Mackey, South Central Region Trustee

### What do you plan on studying and why?

"I plan on studying elementary education. I enjoy working with kids. It is rewarding to see them grow, learn, and use their imagination."

– Jonna McCollough, Western Region Trustee

"I plan to attend Ohio State University and earn a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science with a specialization in animal biosciences with a minor in Animal Nutrition. After completing my undergraduate degree I plan to attend Veterinary Medicine School."

– Matt Koverman, Eastern Region Trustee

### What attracted you to your university?

"The reason that I chose the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, was because of their amazing program for nutrition and wellness. A huge impact on my decision was that the location allowed me to be at home and help out on our farm."

– Cara Smith, Eastern Region Trustee

"I attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and study agricultural economics. I loved the smaller-school feel of the separate agriculture campus. UNL has one of the best agricultural economics/agribusiness programs in the country. That was a big selling point for me." -Lauren Trauernicht, North Central Region Trustee

"I chose Northeastern Oklahoma A&M because when I toured I felt right at home! Their agriculture program is perfect for my interests in food science and agriculture business. I also liked that it wasn't too far from home which allows me to go home from time to time."

– Kaitlyn Cloud, South Central Region Trustee

### What are you involved with at your university?

"I am currently a sophomore at Iowa State University majoring in Animal Science. I am a member of the Iowa State Block and Bridle club where I am involved in the Beef Interest Group and the Classic Cattle Show Committee. Through the cattle show committee, I am on the check-in team. I've truly enjoyed my time at Iowa State and recommend it to anyone looking at future colleges!"

– Grace Greiman, North Central Region Trustee

"I am currently a pre-veterinarian major at Illinois Central College in East Peoria, Illinois. Throughout my freshman year at ICC, I have been heavily involved with the livestock judging team. I am also a member of an agribusiness club that participates in business tours and contests."

– Luke Harker, Eastern Region Trustee

### How has the AJSA equipped you for your future?

"The AJSA has prepared me for college in a way that has expanded my love for agriculture and taught me to share my knowledge of the Simmental industry. The AJSA gave me the skills to become a better livestock evaluator, knowledgeable cattlemaster, and public speaker — all of which have allowed me to be a stand-out student in the classroom at Illinois State University for agriculture economics and business."

– Rachel Dickson, Eastern Region Trustee

"I graduated from Kansas State University in December of 2020 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. The AJSA prepared me for college by giving me a base of education from the quizzes and improved speaking skills. I was also fortunate enough to have Dr. Scott Schaake as an advisor, a fellow Simmental breeder, with the same passion for the breed. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at K-State. GO WILDCATS"

– Kennedy Early, South Central Region Trustee

"The AJSA has taught me many life skills from sales to time management and organizational skills as well that has benefited me in real-world situations."

– Sydney Schwenk, Western Region Trustee

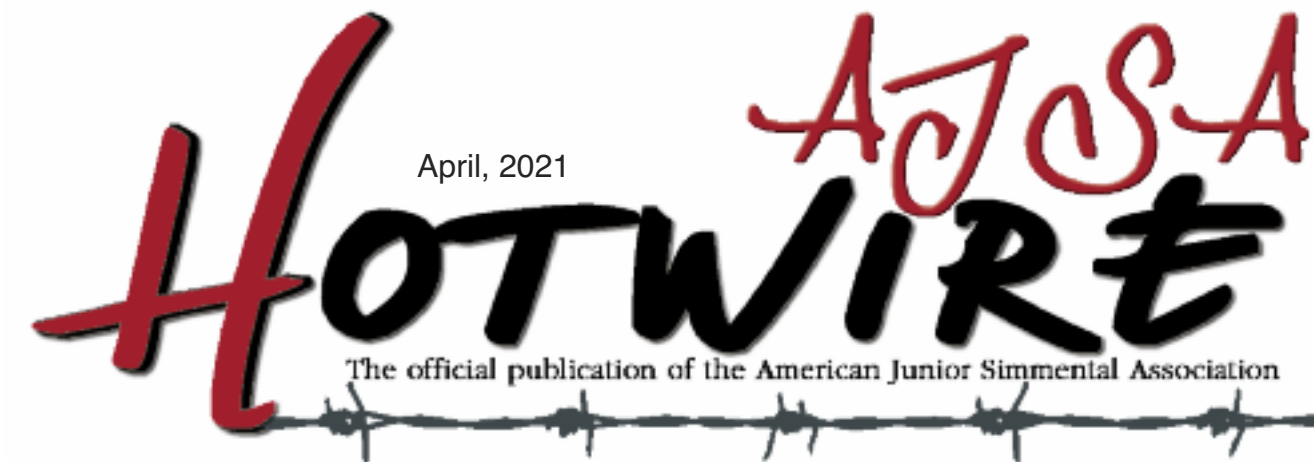
### What advice would you give to those choosing their next step?

"I'm currently a junior at South Dakota State University majoring in Animal Science and Agriculture Sciences. With so many different colleges to pick from, choosing the next step of your education can be overwhelming. My biggest advice would be, find the school that feels like home for you. First, make sure the school offers the type of degree you are looking for because school is more enjoyable when you are learning about the information you are interested in. Also, try to find a school that offers an atmosphere, whether that be size or location, that best fits you. All and all, just make sure you view all your options, sometimes the school you never imagined going to becomes the best fit for you!"

– Clay Sundberg, North Central Region Trustee

"After high school, there are so many different directions available. Regardless of your pathway, find a place that challenges you to be a better person. I chose to attend Butler Community College to study Agriculture Science and be a member of the livestock judging team for numerous reasons, but knowing it would push me was the biggest factor. As my time at Butler comes to a close, I am grateful for my experience because it helped me develop into the best version of myself academically, professionally, and personally. Taking the next step can be scary, but don't be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone! In the end, it will be worth it."

– Martha Moenning, North Central Region Trustee



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## President's Update

Cara Smith, AJSA President

### Reflecting Over Our Cattle Shows

Greetings from our sappy, rain-soaked pastures in North Carolina. Wow! Is the first word that comes to mind when thinking back on the quality of Simmental cattle at this year's major shows. As many of you know the Cattlemen's Congress took the place of the Denver Stock Show in 2021 and was a huge success. The Simmental breed was the second largest breed for the Junior show! It was a great experience to be able to attend the inaugural Cattlemen's Congress and I am excited to see how this show will develop and grow in the coming years. We also want to thank Red River Farms for donating the Foundation Female as well as those who donated, bid, and purchased items supporting the Foundation. We are sincerely grateful for the continued support for the junior programs!

Even though our Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 Board meetings were virtual they were very successful, and we are well prepared for the upcoming year. We have faced many obstacles the last year, but it has been rewarding to see juniors be able to show throughout the fall and winter. The AJSA Trustees have been working hard in preparation for Regionals and National Classics. The Membership/Communications Committee is looking forward to another successful community service project for this year's National



Cara Smith

Classic and we encourage everyone to participate. The Leadership Committee is planning to incorporate a few new ideas into the Mentor/Mentee Program this year. The Marketing Committee is working hard to come up with new products for the AJSA store with plans to have a booth at the National Classic. The Finance Committee is working to have an online sale this spring/summer. We are also excited about continuing the "What's Up AJSA?" videos on Instagram and Facebook. Keep an eye out for videos from a different Trustees about what they are up to or tips for Regionals and National Classics. The entire board is excited for the upcoming shows and events and our number one goal as trustees is to serve you, our fellow members. As always if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact myself or any other AJSA Trustee. I look forward to seeing y'all at the National Classic this summer (if not before)!

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

# National Classic: Places to Go and Restaurants to Enjoy



By Lauren Trauernicht  
North Central Trustee

We, the Nebraska Junior Simmental Association, are extremely excited to host all of you at the 2021 National Classic in Grand Island. Although things didn't go exactly as planned in 2020, we are determined to make this Classic the best that we can. With that being said, there is more to do in Grand Island than just sitting at Fonner Park all day. I have put together a list of attractions and some of the best restaurants in the area to make your time in Grand Island as enjoyable as possible.

There is the Island Oasis Water Park, to cool off from the hot July sun and have some fun. Take a trip to Spring City Trampoline Park, jump around, and have a great time with some new friends. If you are looking for some fun mixed with a little bit of history, check out the Stuhr Museum, where you can get a glimpse into Nebraska life from the early 19th to the early 20th centuries. There are also lots of family friendly activities to fill your evenings with, such as, Westside Lanes, Skate-Island Mini Golf, and G.I. Escape. For those who may not know, the G.I. Escape is escape rooms, where you and your chosen group members must try to solve the clues to figure your way out of a locked room. All of these places would be a great time, and I hope you take full advantage of them!

Not only are there lots of entertainment attractions in Grand Island, but there are also some really great places to eat. Tommy Gunz Bistro serves everything from steaks, to burgers, seafood, and delicious desserts. The next place on the list is Sin City Grill, which serves hand-crafted burgers and amazing milkshakes. The last place you may not have heard of that I recommend, is Napoli's Italian Restaurant. They serve up pizza and pasta like it's straight from Italy. Of course, Grand Island also has many of your favorite chain restaurants like Texas Roadhouse, Olive Garden, and Red Lobster, among many others. Some options that are unique to Nebraska that you definitely want to try include Runza and Valentino's — they will not disappoint.

I hope these suggestions are helpful to your time in Grand Island this summer. We are looking forward to seeing all of the juniors and having a wonderful 2021 National Classic. July can't come any faster!



# Junior Public Speaking



By Kennedy Early  
South Central Trustee

The AJSA is well known for our educational contest and how they help prepare the juniors with life skills to use later. We made a change to public speaking last year, but due to COVID-19 we were not able to have the public speaking contest. Starting at the National and Regional Classics in 2021, public speaking will now be "prepared" public speaking. The AJSA Board felt that it was a good change to the contest for the younger age group as they would benefit from extended time to research the topic. As a young member it can sometimes be a daunting task to read literature on a topic and write a speech in 30 minutes without the help of a parent. We feel that it will also benefit them in their speaking skills by being able to rehearse the speech and familiarize themselves with their

speech weeks prior to the contest. The Board thought this would be a positive adjustment and would be more welcoming to our young members.

Topics are available on the AJSA website as well the AJSA Facebook page. Three topics will be presented for the National Classic as well as Regional Classics. Juniors will then prepare their speeches prior to the contest on two three by five hand-written note cards. Speeches will still need to follow the time requirements of three to seven minutes. If you have any questions about the change in the contest, contact any of the AJSA board members or find the National and Regional Classic rules on the AJSA website.

### National Classic Topics:

- ❖ What marketing and sales strategies does your beef operation use?
- ❖ Discuss the importance of beef production and/or beef consumption in day-to-day life.
- ❖ Why Simmental?

### Regional Classic Topics:

- ❖ What does it mean to be a good beef advocate?
- ❖ How has the coronavirus pandemic affected the public opinion of the agriculture industry?
- ❖ How do you prepare for calving season?

# Recap of Dixie



By Sara Sweat  
South Central Trustee

My family and I have been traveling to the Dixie National in Jackson, Mississippi, for several years now, and it has grown to be one of my favorite shows. The weather can tend to be wet but the people are always welcoming and the food is never cold. No matter how far you travel, Jackson has a way of making you feel at home. However, this year it was a little different — this was the first year Dixie National was a PTP Major Show. The atmosphere was still homey, but we had several more friends to share it with.

This year the Simmental show at Jackson was bigger than ever with around 200 animals exhibited. The weather was cold, and the winter storm was on the way, but the Mississippi association worked hard to keep us warm supplying coffee and donuts on show-day morning. Even in the midst of the storm, the exhibitor numbers were up and everyone managed to stay warm and have a great show.

On behalf of the AJSA, I would like to thank Mississippi for hosting such a wonderful show. I would also like to thank Chance Ujazzdowski and Darla Aegerter for coming down, even though the weather made it inconvenient, to help make the show run smoothly. I know everyone appreciated all the hard work you guys put forth to make sure everything was exactly right. I hope that everyone will make the trip to Mississippi next year and maybe the weather will be a little warmer. I know my family will be there again; we just can't seem to get enough of that southern hospitality.



# Where Are They Now: Garrett Stanfield, AJSA Trustee 2015-2019



By Rachel Dickson  
VP of Marketing

### Introduce yourself and your past involvement in the AJSA.

I am the third generation to be involved with my family farm in southern Ohio. My family began raising Simmental cattle in 1974, and holds ASA member number 005443, which is one of the oldest active numbers in the state of Ohio and the US. My involvement with junior activities began at an early age, as my older cousins were also active in the AJSA. I attended my first Regional Classic in 2008, and my first National Classic in 2009. Exhibiting at these events became an annual "vacation" for my family, and I continued to find my passion for the beef industry through my involvement. From 2015 to 2019, I had the opportunity to serve as a member of the AJSA Board of Trustees. This was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my time in the association, as I was able to learn more about the members in the eastern region and was able to represent their opinions as the board developed innovative ideas to improve the AJSA.

### What are your future aspirations?

I have a passion for advocacy developed in part due to my involvement in the AJSA. As I grow into the next stage of my life, it is my hope to discover a career path that will allow me to advocate for agriculture and the beef industry. Having been involved in agriculture throughout my childhood, and now into adulthood, I have gained knowledge of the controversies facing our industry. I look forward to continuing to cultivate the skills to become a positive advocate for agriculture through further education and in a professional setting.

### How do you continue to stay involved in the Simmental breed?

Although my time as a junior member has come to a conclusion, I remain dedicated to progressing my own operation and the Simmental breed. As I transition my focus to being a breeder, I plan to rely heavily on an elite nucleus of donor females for genetic progress. Having grown up in the junior program, I see the value in encouraging young junior members to become involved. It is my hope that I can continue the tradition that I have come to enjoy of attending AJSA events each summer, while teaching and guiding new members to gain the most from their AJSA experience.

### What is one piece of advice you can give to current AJSA members?

I have great enthusiasm for the future of the American Junior Simmental Association and credit it with providing me the skills necessary to succeed in my educational endeavors and in my professional career. As young members, the contest portion of the week can often seem intimidating; however, I encourage each of you to break down your walls and participate in each contest. The lessons learned and experiences gained will be very beneficial in your future. Most importantly, build relationships with those around you, and make memories! Those will truly last a lifetime.

# Eastern Regional Preview: Cookeville, TN



By Matt Koverman  
Eastern Trustee

As we look forward to our 2021 AJSA Regional Classics we can begin to hope for a sense of normalcy this summer. The 2021 Eastern Regional Classic will be held on June 2-5 in Cookeville, Tennessee on the campus of Tennessee Tech University. This year's event will be hosted by the Tennessee Junior Simmental Association (TJSA), which last hosted an Eastern Regional Classic in 2016. We are so excited and grateful that Tennessee is welcoming us to their beautiful state. With the cancellation of the 2020 AJSA Regional Classics due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event is poised for record-breaking attendance.

If you have never been to a Regional Classic, then I would absolutely recommend a trip to Tennessee. This event pro-

vides an excellent opportunity to prepare for the National Classic in Grand Island. Even if you can not attend the National Classic, Regionals still gives you the opportunity to compete in an AJSA sanctioned event this summer.

With everything that we have experienced in the last 13 months, I cannot think of a better way to start the summer than packing the trailer and heading to Tennessee for another memorable Eastern Regional Classic. On behalf of the TJSA and the Eastern Region Trustees, we invite you to join us in Tennessee for the 2021 Eastern Regional Classic. Get your entries in early and get ready because "It's Simmental Time in Tennessee!"



# Things to do in the Area: South Central Regional Classic



By Kaitlyn Cloud  
South Central Trustee

The Regional Classic is one of my all time favorite shows. This year the South Central Regional will be held in Springfield, Missouri. One of the things I enjoy most in Springfield is going to the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium which is also right next to BassPro Shops. If you are a big fan of roller coasters, the famous Silver Dollar City amusement park is just a 50 minute drive from the fairgrounds. After a long day at the fairgrounds there is nothing better than a good meal. A fan favorite among my family is Black Sheep Gourmet Burgers which is located in downtown Springfield. If you're looking for something to please everyone in your group, Bambinos is another great option. Can't wait to see everyone in Springfield on June 9-12.



# A Quick Note About the Western Regional Classic



By Sydney Schwenk  
Western Trustee

Hello everyone, I hope you all are excited to get back into the ring as much as the AJSA Board is. This last year has sure changed our view of what normal is, but hopefully things go back to what was once viewed as a typical day.

Time to pack your bags and tack boxes because the Regional Classics are rapidly approaching. I'm so thrilled that we're able to hold the Western Regional this summer in Sandpoint, Idaho, June 16-19. Western Regional Classic has always been one of my

favorite shows to attend each year. From all the career development events to the time in the ring, some of my favorite memories showing and closest friends have been made at the Western Regional Classic. Hope to see you all in Idaho!

