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\$14,000 in Scholarships and Prizes Awarded at 2023 Canadian Junior Angus GOAL Conference

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Rocky View County, AB — For the first time since 2020, the annual Canadian Junior Angus Guiding Outstanding Angus Leaders (GOAL) Conference was held at its traditional time over the February long weekend. Forty-two Canadian Angus youth were joined by and one guest from the Junior Red Angus Association in the United States and another guest from the Czech Republic as they gathered in Toronto, Ontario for the seventeenth conference where \$14,000 in prizes were awarded.

Five finalists in the Canadian Angus Foundation Legacy Scholarship program shared \$11,000 and a \$3,000 heifer voucher prize was awarded to one lucky attendee. Matthew Trefiak of Edgerton, Alberta placed first and received a \$5,000 scholarship.

Carmen White of Claresholm, Alberta placed second and received a \$3,000 scholarship. Placing third and receiving a \$2,000 scholarship is Emma Harms of Mather, Manitoba. Chloe Loane of Kilmuir, Prince Edward Island and Aaron Van Steekelenburg of Millicent, Alberta each received \$500 as runners-up in the competition.

The Legacy Scholarship program awards \$11,000 in prizes to Canadian Junior Angus members recognizing overall academic achievement, leadership and community involvement, and industry knowledge. The top five applicants attend the GOAL conference for an interview and panel discussion and the scholarships are awarded during the conference.

In addition to the scholarships, Ava Loveridge of Melville, Saskatchewan won a \$3,000 heifer voucher. All attendees had their names entered into a draw and her name was selected. Loveridge will use the funds toward the purchase of an Angus female this year.

Highlights from GOAL included a resume building workshop, presentations on volunteering and building leadership skills, credit and collateral, producer engagement, branding presentations by J. Scott Vernon, Ph.D and Crystal Mackay of Loft 32, and a presentation on the new Canadian Angus Calving App by Canadian Angus Association Director of Science and Technology Kajal Devani as well as an evening excursion to Medieval Times.

About the Scholarship Recipients

Emma Harms is a first-year agribusiness student at Assiniboine Community College in Brandon. Harms is the Manitoba Junior Angus Association President and recently completed a term as president of her local 4-H club. She intends to return to her family farm upon completion of her diploma and also work in the agriculture industry helping farmers “keep their farms running for future generations”.

Chloe Loane of Kilmuir, Prince Edward Island, has been showing cattle since she was four years old so it is no surprise that she is a member of the Stockman's Club at Lakeland College where she is in her first year in the animal science technology program. Loane intends to pursue a career as an embryo transfer technician and also continue to raise purebred cattle. She represents the Maritimes on the Canadian Junior Angus Board of Directors.

Matthew Trefiak is in his final year at the University of Saskatchewan where he will earn a bachelor of science in agriculture, animal sciences. He was a director on the Alberta Junior Angus Association Board of Directors and was also involved in 4-H. Trefiak has a long-term career goal of being involved in his family ranch and also being an advocate for the Canadian beef industry in public policy.

Aaron Van Steekelenburg is also in his final year at the University of Saskatchewan, pursuing an animal science degree. After graduation, his goal is to take an internship in France to learn how to make a wide variety of cheeses and cured meats as well as work with farms in the United States to further develop his beef industry knowledge. Van Steekelenburg hopes these experiences will help him develop his family farm's marketing strategy to sell on-farm products such as cheeses, milk and meats direct to local consumers.

Carmen White is in her second year of the Food and Agricultural Resource Economics Program at the University of Guelph. She is president of the Beef Science and Judging Clubs and Canadian Agri Marketing Competition Team Secretary. White was a finalist in the 2022 Robert C. McHaffie Canadian Junior Ambassador competition.

About GOAL and CJA

The GOAL Conference promotes leadership skills within the Angus breed. Junior members from all over the country attend this three-day event held in a different Canadian location each year. During the event, Juniors hear from nationally recognized speakers, participate in workshops designed to improve their leadership skills, get involved in teamwork activities, and develop beef and industry knowledge. Participants are also given the opportunity to network and socialize with fellow Junior Angus members.

Canadian Junior Angus is a group of Angus enthusiasts under the age of 21. GOAL is an annual networking and interactive function organized by the Canadian Junior Angus board. It rotates throughout the country every February. After being cancelled in 2021 and postponed until April 2022, this year GOAL returns to its regular schedule.



Legacy Scholarship finalists, left to right: Raina Syrnyk Canadian Angus Foundation Director; Belinda Wagner, Canadian Angus Foundation Executive Director & Canadian Junior Angus Coordinator; runner-up Chloe Loane; second-place finalist Carmen White; first-place finalist Matthew Trefiak; third-place finalist Emma Harms and runner-up Aaron Van Steekelenburg



Canadian Angus Foundation Director Raina Syrnyk, heifer voucher recipient Ava Loveridge and Canadian Angus Foundation Executive Director & Canadian Junior Angus Coordinator Belinda Wagner



GOAL 2023 attendees

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For more information or to request photos, please contact:

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