



## JUNIOR World

### Get Out What You Put In

by Katie Hefner

North American Limousin Junior Association Director

Hi to all NALJA members! Let me start by saying thank you for letting me serve as one of your NALJA Directors. These past two years have been a blast and that is mostly due to my participation in the greatest organization around, NALJA.

I have always been told, “You only get out of it what you put into it!” As a NALJA member that has experienced many heifer and steer shows, I have personally come to know this fact. A few months ago I attended the National Western in Denver and saw many of you preparing for the show with your animals—personally putting in something. I hope that many NALJA members had a great show experience with your heifers. Congratulations to the winners in all the classes that represented our membership! I hope, whether you won or not, you at least learned what is needed to “put into” your animals to achieve the goals you have for your beef projects.

Maybe you know someone who shows or is in an agriculture class or group with you—invite them to join our NALJA

organization. Let them know about events our membership participates in throughout the year. The regional shows will be coming up, so watch the *Limousin World* for details.

The summer, fall and winter shows are a great time to talk with everyone about NALJA. The beef industry is going to need knowledgeable and hard-working leadership to continue what our parents and grandparents started with NALF.

I have worked many years demonstrating or serving beef at fairs, grocery stores and even at the capitol building with the Oklahoma Cattlewomen. But lately I have seen, especially in my age group, the problems and the mis-information circulating about beef. That means we have lots of work we have to “put in” just to keep science-based, good news about our product circulating to these future consumers of protein. Growing NALJA with members that will “put in” by learning how to produce quality beef products and seeing what it takes to work as a team with the same goal will provide

the leadership for the future generations of our industry!

My cowherd on the ranch has grown and my goal is to continue our family tradition in the beef industry is coming to fruition. I admit my involvement on the NALJA board and other events our membership participates in have helped me learn what I needed to “put in” to reach this goal.

Every member of NALJA can help others and share their knowledge of the process either in the show arena or cowherd. Teaching younger members the process of teamwork, even if they belong to different state organizations or groups, is vital to our future success. We must remember that we are all in the beef industry together and should constantly strive to make a better future for the next generations of NALJA and NALF.

So “Put In” by becoming a member of NALJA, if you haven’t joined us yet. I know each of you that does will “Get Out What you Put In”!

See you around,

Katie Hefner

LW