

JUNIOR World



by Cassidy Woodard
North American Limousin Junior Association Director

Happy New Year Juniors! A new year is always intriguing in that it brings new hopes, new dreams and New Year's resolutions. And in Colorado, it all starts with the National Western Stock Show (NWSS). The NWSS is rich in tradition and, if you have the opportunity, I encourage you to come out West and experience this agricultural showcase. The pen and carload shows in the yards make this show unique and have been one of the highlights of the National Western for 102 years.

Aside from the cattle shows, an essential NALJA event at the National Western is the Genetics On Ice Benefit Auction. The benefit auction will follow the NWSS Social at the Doubletree Hotel Sunday, January 13. Along with genetic packages, there are always a number of unique gift items. Everyone is invited to attend and support the juniors. Additionally, the Corner Post Genetics Package Female will be sold in the National Limousin Sale Monday, January 14. These are two primary fundraisers for the junior

program. I would like to thank Council Family Limousin for donating the Corner Post Female this year. Also, thank you to all the donors for their contributions to the benefit auction.

I am looking forward to 2008 since I will be graduating from high school and moving on to the next phase of my life. While filling out college and scholarship applications, I have realized how important it is to be involved. Therefore, I encourage each of you to pursue interests that you enjoy and actively participate in extra-curricular and service activities. Involvement in activities and organizations provides you with avenues to develop and strengthen leadership qualities. They also provide the opportunity to meet new people and develop lasting friendships. The relationships I have developed through NALJA are ones I truly treasure.

A new year is also an excellent time to establish goals and make plans that will assist you in achieving them. Set goals that will challenge you and do not be afraid to dream. You are bound to make mistakes along the way, but learn from

them and remember that success can only be achieved through commitment and hard work.

Legendary football coach Vince Lombardi once said, "The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."

The NALJA Board recently had a productive fall board meeting and will meet again in the spring to finalize plans for the 2008 National Junior Limousin Show and Congress in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. If you have any suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or any of the board members, because we value your input. I hope everyone is making plans to join us in Sioux Falls for a fun-filled week.

Best wishes to each of you in 2008 and remember the words of author Susan Polis Schutz: "Live life to the fullest, create your own dreams and follow them until they are a reality."

Hope to see you in Denver!