

GAGE LONG

May 29, 2026

Dear 2026 NJAA Voting Delegates,

Greetings from the Sooner State of Oklahoma and the home of the Cowboys!

First, I would like to congratulate you on being selected by your state association to serve as a voting delegate at the 2026 National Junior Angus Show. Not only do you have the opportunity to represent your state on a national level, but you also have the responsibility of helping shape the future of the National Junior Angus Association through your vote for the National Junior Board of Directors.

For the past three years, I have had the privilege of serving as a voting delegate, and it has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my junior Angus career. If I could offer one piece of advice, it would be to take full advantage of this opportunity. Step outside your comfort zone, introduce yourself to new people, and build relationships with juniors from across the country. Some of those individuals may become lifelong friends. The National Junior Angus Show is one of the greatest weeks of the summer, and I encourage you to make the most of every moment.

My name is Gage Long, and I am a 20-year-old sophomore at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas. As a fourth-generation Angus breeder, I truly live and breathe Angus. During my 11 years of involvement in the National Junior Angus Association, I have exhibited cattle at national shows, competed in numerous contests, attended LEAD Conferences and Raising the Bar Conferences, and taken advantage of countless opportunities offered through this organization.

Without a doubt, the experiences and opportunities provided by the NJAA have helped shape me into the person I am today. They have taught me leadership, responsibility, communication, and the importance of giving back to an organization that has given so much to me.

Thank you for taking time out of your busy and undoubtedly hectic week to review my application and résumé. I hope that after learning more about me, you will see my genuine passion for the Angus breed, the NJAA, and the future of this organization. More importantly, I hope you will recognize my commitment to serving junior members and helping ensure that future generations have the same opportunities and experiences that have meant so much to me.

I appreciate your time, dedication, and commitment to serving as a member of the 2026 National Junior Angus voting delegate body. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to seeing everyone in the Bluegrass state of Kentucky for the best week of the year.

Sincerely,

Gage Long

GAGE LONG

EDUCATION

West Texas A&M University | Canyon, TX

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Business & Agricultural Economics

Expected Graduation: 2029

- Sophomore standing beginning Fall 2026
- Freshman GPA: 3.5

Adair High School | Adair, OK

Graduated 2025

- GPA: 3.7
 - Class Rank: 26 of 63
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LEADERSHIP & ACTIVITIES

National Junior Angus Association (NJAA)

Member since childhood

- Earned both the Bronze and Silver Awards.
- Participated in every National Junior Angus Show since 2016.
 - Have participated in numerous contests, including; The Phenotype and Genotype Show (PGS), Bred-and-Owned Bull and Heifer Shows, Certified Angus Beef® Cook-Off, Sales Talk, Quiz Bowl, Extemporaneous Speaking and the Judging Contest
- Attended numerous LEAD and Raising the Bar Conferences.

Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity (AGR)

West Texas A&M University

- Active member since freshman year.

Future Farmers of America (FFA)

Adair High School Chapter

- Served in multiple officer positions throughout high school.
 - Earned the Oklahoma State FFA Degree.
 - Scheduled to receive the American FFA Degree in Fall 2026.
 - Member of:
 - Livestock Judging Team
 - National Silver-Ranked Horse Judging Team
 - State Champion Commercial Cattle Grading Team
 - State Dairy Judging Team
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WORK EXPERIENCE

Long's L-R Ranch | Vinita, OK

Cow-Calf Operation

Raised on and actively involved in all aspects of the family ranching operation while maintaining a cow herd of my own.

Responsibilities and accomplishments include:

- Assisted in developing and evaluating business and financial plans.
- Participated in marketing registered Angus genetics through biannual production sales.
- Contributed to genetic selection and herd improvement decisions.
- Managed animal husbandry responsibilities including nutrition, feeding, herd health, and overall cattle welfare.
- Developed strong work ethic, leadership, and problem-solving skills through daily ranch operations.

Bar V6 Ranch | Adair, OK

Ranch Employee | 2021–Present

Work with a commercial cattle operation consisting of more than 1,000 Brahman-influenced cows utilizing registered Angus sires.

Responsibilities include:

- Assisting with herd health management and cattle processing.
- Sorting and grouping calves for annual marketing through national video auction platforms.
- Operating and maintaining agricultural equipment.
- Assisting with hay production, pasture spraying, and pasture maintenance.
- Working effectively with ranch employees to complete large-scale projects safely and efficiently.
- Strengthening communication, teamwork, and mechanical skills through daily ranch operations.

REFERENCES

Jason Vickery

Bar V6 Ranch

Tanner Taylor

Agricultural Education Instructor & FFA Advisor

Adair Public Schools

1) What personal and professional goals have you set for the future?

Currently, I am attending **West Texas A&M University in Canyon, Texas**, where I am pursuing a degree in **Agribusiness and Economics**. My biggest goal for the future is to build a career in agricultural sales. Whether that means following in my dad's footsteps and becoming a sale manager for Angus cattle sales across the country, working as a livestock pharmaceutical representative for companies such as Zoetis, or selling farm equipment, I know I want to be involved in an industry that combines agriculture and people.

Anyone who knows me knows that I can strike up a conversation with just about anyone, and about just anything. Because of that, I truly believe a career in agricultural sales is a great fit for me. While my current job in Canyon is not technically an ag sales position, I have the opportunity to work with purebred Angus show cattle every day—and honestly, is there a much better job than that? I do not think so.

Although a career in agricultural sales and the ability to provide a comfortable life while running my own purebred Angus operation are among my biggest goals, they are not my only goals. I also want to give back to the youth livestock programs that have helped shape me into the person I am today. Most importantly, I want to give back to the NJAA. Without a doubt, the fellow juniors, advisors, and countless individuals involved in the Angus breed have had a tremendous impact on my life. They have provided opportunities, mentorship, friendships, and experiences that have shaped my character and helped make me the person I am today. My hope is to one day give future generations of Angus youth the same opportunities and encouragement that were given to me.

2) Knowing what you know now, what would you have done differently in your NJAA career?

Knowing what I know now as a 20-year-old college student, I wish I had taken advantage of more of the opportunities that previous Green Coat members encouraged me to attend, such as AMP, LEAD, and Raising the Bar.

Looking back, I truly believe that participating in those conferences and leadership events would have helped me develop even more connections within the Angus breed while creating lifelong memories and experiences. The relationships built through these programs are invaluable and often extend far beyond the event itself.

The NJAA has always put junior members first, and I firmly believe that commitment is one of the reasons the Angus breed continues to be so successful today. These programs are designed to help young people grow as leaders, and if I could do anything differently, I would have taken advantage of every opportunity available to me.

3) How do you demonstrate leadership when no title or recognition is involved?

The best way I know how to demonstrate leadership, even without a title, is by simply doing the right thing, even when it may not be popular. True leadership is not about recognition, awards, or having people notice what you are doing. It is about setting an example and helping others because it is the right thing to do.

Even when it feels like no one is watching and you never receive a thank-you, you can still feel proud because you know you made a positive impact. A quote that comes to mind is, "Not all superheroes wear capes," and I truly believe that statement is true.

When I think about the NJAS and all of the activities the NJAA is involved in, I think about the countless hours spent behind the scenes to ensure juniors have the best experience possible. Many of these individuals never receive

the recognition they deserve, yet they continue to serve because they care deeply about the Angus breed and the future of its youth. To me, those people are the true leaders and the real MVPs of the NJAS.

Their example has taught me that leadership is not defined by a title. Instead, it is defined by your actions, your willingness to serve others, and your commitment to doing what is right. That is the kind of leader I strive to be every day.

4) If elected to the NJAA Board of Directors, what would you bring to the table?

If I have the honor of serving as an NJAA Board Member, I truly believe I would bring a lot to the table. As I mentioned in my first response, if you have ever met me, you know that I do not know a stranger. I can talk to just about anyone about anything, and I believe that is a tremendous asset for a member of the Board of Directors.

Being able to connect with people from all walks of life has allowed me to build strong relationships and valuable connections throughout my life. Those connections, combined with the relationships and experiences of the other candidates, can help strengthen our organization and create opportunities for junior members across the country.

Most importantly, I am passionate about serving others, representing the membership, and helping ensure that every junior member feels welcomed and valued. I am confident that whoever the six new board members are following the 2026 National Junior Angus Show will bring unique strengths and ideas to the team. Together, I believe they will help continue moving the NJAA forward and make a lasting impact on our association.

5) In your words, what role does the NJAA Board of Directors play in the NJAA?

The NJAA Board of Directors plays a vital role in guiding and strengthening the National Junior Angus Association through leadership, mentorship, enthusiasm, and service.

Board members are expected to lead by example, create excitement for the organization, mentor younger members, and help build trust in the Angus brand. Wearing the Green Coat brings credibility and respect, but it also comes with the responsibility of setting a positive example for junior members across the country. Equally important, the adult membership should see that our generation is capable of becoming the future leaders of the beef industry.

As board members, we must be approachable and willing to help younger juniors who are looking for guidance, encouragement, or simply someone to answer their questions. The enthusiasm and energy displayed by board members help create an environment where younger members feel welcomed, have fun, and become excited to participate in the opportunities offered by the NJAA.

When I reflect on my own junior career, it was the relationships I built with previous board members that encouraged me to step outside of my comfort zone and become more involved. The trust they built with me had a lasting impact, and I believe one of the most important responsibilities of the NJAA Board of Directors is to have that same positive influence on the next generation of Angus leaders.