



**ANGUS AUSTRALIA**



## **SEMEX GENETICS MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP**



### **The Scholarship**

Each year Semex Genetics sponsor a selected beef industry participant with:

- \* A return air ticket to the USA to spend a semester at Michigan State University (MSU).
- \* A seat on the July/August Semex Genetics Beef Breeders tour of the USA travelling with staff from Semex, the world's largest AI organisation
- \* and a Semex Genetics jacket and cap to wear to Angus functions for the following year.

The Australian Beef Industry Foundation will also provide the winner with enrolment fees for a subject of 3 credit hours<sup>1</sup>, \$2000 towards accommodation expenses.

The Michigan State University scholarship was established by Angus Australia to:

- \* Increase members' knowledge of the US beef industry
- \* Expose our members to different agricultural production methods and systems
- \* Strengthen relationships between our members and US beef industry personnel
- \* Develop the knowledge, communication skills, and self-confidence of our future leaders.

Each year an individual is chosen by a selection panel based on an application, an interview and their ability to communicate.

Recipients will be required to sit on the Angus Youth International Development sub-committee and to take up a position on the Management Committee on their return. The overseas experience will increase their capacity to contribute on these committees through developing their communication skills and self-confidence. To further develop the scholarship winners' capacity to contribute to Angus Youth on their return, the MSU Scholarship winner is encouraged to attend American National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) events such as their Leaders Engaged in Agriculture Workshop or National Junior Show. It is hoped that they will bring back ideas to improve the Angus Youth program, generated from attending these events and meeting the NJAA Committee/American Angus Association staff.

The scholarship is co-organised each year with a staff member of the Animal Science faculty at Michigan State University. They arrange accommodation and subjects in the Animal/Meat Science Department for the scholarship winner and is their main point of contact before and during their time at MSU. Accommodation is provided at Farmhouse and Sigma Alpha colleges for male and females respectively. Michigan State University is highly regarded for

---

<sup>1</sup> The scholarship winner is required by Michigan State University to officially enroll in at least one subject.

its animal and meat science courses internationally. The scholarship winner is required by Michigan State University to officially enrol in at least one subject. Some past scholarship winners have arranged to earn credits towards their Australian university course. The Fall Semester goes from the end of August until mid December. Visit [www.msu.edu/home/](http://www.msu.edu/home/) for more information.

### **Selection/Eligibility**

Selection of the Scholarship winner will be run in conjunction with conjunction with the Sydney Royal Easter Show, on the 9-10 April. To be eligible for the 2010 Semex Genetics MSU Scholarship, the applicant needs to attend an interview and attend the Angus Youth Alumni dinner on Friday 9 April, and be aged 21 - 30 years when the scholarship is taken up<sup>2</sup>. The scholarship must be taken up in 2010. In addition they are required to sign a declaration to say that they will comply with the Semex Genetics MSU Scholarship Conditions of Entry (Appendix 1).

To apply for the scholarship, you need to send a copy of your CV, a cover letter explaining why you would like to win the award and a signed declaration form to the Angus Youth Coordinator at the Angus Society by close of business on Thursday 25 March 2010. Applications received after this date may not be accepted. Electronic applications, providing they contain a signed Conditions of Entry are also accepted

Selection for the Semex Genetics MSU Scholarship has six components with the following weightings:

Interview	/400
CV	/100
Cover Letter	/50
Public speaking	/300
Judges' weighting	/200
Total -	/1050

In the past some State Committees have assisted with travel costs to and from the competition. State Committees usually only meet a few times a year and so it is recommended that you put forward a request to them well before the selection process. A list of State Committee contact details is published in the Angus Directory.

### ***Interview***

The interviews are conducted on the afternoon of Friday 9 April, with the venue to be announced closer to the date. After applications close (25 March) Angus Australia will schedule interviews and notify you of your interview time.

Selection criteria and the interview scoring process are outlined in Appendix 2. The selection criteria and scoring, place emphasis on the applicant's ability to coherently express their views, aims and aspiration in the beef industry. Preference will be given to applicants able to take the scholarship up for the fall semester (classes starting late August) and attend the Semex Genetics Breeder tour in the preceding July/August.

---

<sup>2</sup> "Take up" defined as depart.

The AY Management Committee and Angus Youth Coordinator select a panel of three to four interviewers. The panel usually includes a representative of the major sponsors Semex Genetics, a representative of the Angus Society, an independent Angus breeder and a past winner of the scholarship.

Dress should be appropriate for an interview and entrants should carry with them any information they feel is relevant to the interview.

Interviews will be in half hour blocks, consisting of a 20 minute interview and ten minutes for the panel to discuss and score.

### ***Public Speaking***

The selection panel will observe and score applicants out of 300 on a brief presentation given during the Angus Alumni Dinner on Friday 9 April. Topics will be provided at least a week prior. For example, the 2006 topic was *“In temperate Australia, indications are that the breed composition of the commercial cowherd is changing. Do you agree with this statement and why? Is this change desirable? Consider both pure and crossbreeding systems in your answer.”*

### ***Judge’s Weighting***

The selection panel will award up to 200 points on factors such as:

- Communication ability observed during the Alumni dinner
- Past contribution of the applicant to Youth Groups or other community involvement
- The applicant’s initiative, enthusiasm, and willingness to take up opportunities and get involved in a range of activities.

### **Announcement of the Winner**

The winner of the Scholarship is the entrant with the highest total score. The winner is announced during an Angus Youth presentation at the Sydney Royal Easter Show after the Finals of the National Judging Competition on Saturday 10 April and a certificate is presented by a Semex Genetics representative.

### **After the Competition**

The Angus Youth Coordinator will write a letter to Michigan State University introducing the new winner.

The Angus Youth Coordinator should then write to the winner congratulating him/her on their achievement and providing them with contact details for MSU, New England Travel and giving them information about getting their documentation underway for a student visa. Angus Youth will also provide the winner with an embroidered Angus Youth polo shirt and cap to wear overseas.

The winner in the previous year shall contact the recent winner to congratulate them and offer assistance planning their trip. The past winner is requested to send an updated tips and contacts manual.

Semex Genetics will provide the winner with a tour date and start location at the latest in May. The recipient needs to inform Angus Australia of their intended return date to Australia so that Angus Australia and Semex Genetics can contact travel agents for quotes.

On informing the Society of an intended departure and return date the scholarship winner will be sent a Deed of Indemnity and Release. They will be asked to sign this deed agreeing not to make any claim whatsoever against the Society in respect of any medical expenses, personal injury or death or loss of or damage to property caused by or arising from any terrorist/war activities in the USA or elsewhere as a result of taking up the Scholarship.

Obtaining a visa is the responsibility of the recipient. This can be a lengthy process and so it is recommended that this be started soon after winning the scholarship.

### **During the Exchange**

The recipient is to send Angus Youth a postcard to be published in an Angus Youth newsletter and on the Angus Youth and Semex Genetics websites.

There are usually opportunities to get work on campus. Michigan State University has an Angus and Hereford herd, a feedlot, and abattoir that employ students. If you would like to earn some money overseas, discuss this with MSU staff.

### **At Michigan State University**

Michigan State University requires the recipient to enrol in at least one subject to be granted a student card. As part of the scholarship the tuition fee for a 3 credit hour subject will be provided upon receipt of invoice. You may select 4 credit hour subjects but they are more expensive and you will be responsible for the difference in cost. If you are a student and wish to transfer these credit points to Australia, please check with your institution on the comparability of subjects.

### **After the Scholarship**

After the scholarship the recipient is required to write a report on their experience for publication on the Angus Youth website and in Angus Youth publications.

Recipients will be required to sit on the Angus Youth International Development sub-committee and to take up a position on the Management Committee on their return. The Angus Youth Coordinator will invite the winner to the 2011 Angus Youth Leadership Clinic to be held in Armidale in early February. Office positions will be voted on and sub-committees formed during this clinic.

On returning to Australia they are also requested to be on the interview panel and give a presentation on their exchange at the Angus Youth Alumni dinner in Sydney and the Angus Youth Roundup following their return.

## Appendix 1

### **Angus Australia Semex Genetics Michigan State University Scholarship**

#### **Conditions of Entry**

- Semex Genetics will fund a return economy airfare from the nearest capital city to the winner to Lansing, USA. Any additional costs due to the recipient not taking a direct flight to Michigan are to be paid by the recipient.
- The scholarship winner will also be provided with enrolment for one 3 credit hour subject (approximately \$US1500) and AUD2000 to go towards accommodation expenses (total accommodation expense approximately \$US2200 including food). It is estimated that the winner will need at least AUD 5000 to cover expenses in the US. Please note that due to exchange rates at the time of the money transfer the scholarship funds may not be sufficient to cover the course cost.
- Semex Genetics will include the recipient in the first six days of the beef breeder's tour of the USA during July/August 2008 at no cost. This sponsorship to include additional travel expenses associated with the winner taking a non-direct flight to Lansing. If the winner wishes to participate in the rest of the tour then the cost is to be funded by the winner.
- Other domestic travel (e.g. if you join the livestock/meat judging teams) is the responsibility of the winner.

#### **The Scholarship**

- The scholarship will be for one semester at Michigan State University, which is approximately 3 months in duration. Scholarship winners may (are encouraged to) travel before or after their semester at university within the permits of US international visitor regulations. However if travel is for longer than six months then the additional ticket expense involved is to be funded by the scholarship winner.
- The scholarship winner is required by Michigan State University to officially enrol in at least one subject. The winner is required to attend classes as a full time student and fully participate in University activities. The recipient will be required to cover the cost of this enrolment fee.
- The scholarship winner will be under the guidance of a staff member of Animal Science Faculty at Michigan State University, who will arrange for the scholarship winner to attend classes of their choice at Michigan State University and will arrange their accommodation on campus.
- Stationary and writing material will be the responsibility of the scholarship winner; however MSU staff may be able to assist with borrowing reference material.
- Getting a visa is the responsibility of the scholarship winner. Any expenses arising from a late visa are to be covered by the recipient.

#### **Nominees for the Semex Genetics Michigan State University Scholarship**

- The applicant must be involved with cattle / beef.
- The applicant must be between 21 and 30 years of age inclusive when the scholarship is taken up.

#### **Scholarship Winners**

- The winner of the Semex Genetics Michigan State University Scholarship is to take up the award in 2010.
- In the event of the winner being unable to take the Scholarship it will be offered to the second place getter.
- Scholarship winners will do nothing to bring the scholarship, Angus Youth program, the Angus Society, sponsor, or university into disrepute and will behave in an appropriate manner befitting such a scholarship at all times.
- If improper behaviour occurs the scholarship winner will be liable for all costs associated with the exchange, and the Angus Society of Australia will make immediate arrangements to return the scholarship winner.
- The scholarship winner will provide a full medical certificate to the Angus Youth Coordinator on confirmation of their acceptance of the exchange. Adequate overseas' medical insurance while in the US is compulsory and must be purchased by the winner prior to departure with documentary evidence supplied to Angus Australia. This is important as there is no public health scheme in the USA. A badly broken leg with complications in the USA can run up bills of AUD 100,000 while a night in hospital with some surgery can amount to AUD 10,000.
- The scholarship winner will sign a Deed of Indemnity and Release agreeing not to make any claim whatsoever against the Society in respect of any medical expenses, personal injury or death or loss of or damage to property caused by or arising from any terrorist/war activities in the USA or elsewhere as a result of taking up the Scholarship.

- The scholarship winner will actively participate in the Angus Youth International Development sub-committee and take up a position on the Management Committee during 2011.
- The scholarship winner, within the twelve months following the exchange, shall make themselves available for the purpose of promoting future exchanges and for advertising purposes of the sponsor and the Angus Youth program as detailed in the Scholarship Information document.
- The recipient will write a postcard during the exchange for the Angus Youth newsletter and a report within one month of completion of their exchange.
- Will learn lots and have lots of fun!!!

**Angus Australia  
Semex Genetics - Michigan State University Scholarship**

**Declaration to Abide by the Conditions of Entry**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ agree to abide by Angus  
(Name- please print) (Angus Society Membership Code)

Australia, Semex Genetics - Michigan State University Scholarship Conditions of Entry on this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_.

.....  
Signature

Please return this declaration (with both pages of entry conditions attached) along with your resume and cover letter to:

Angus Youth Coordinator  
Angus Australia  
Locked Bag 11  
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

\*\* Please circle your size for an Angus Youth polo shirt:  
S, M, L, XL, XXL

## 2010 Semex Genetics Michigan State University Scholarship

### Interview Panel Score Sheet

Nb. It is recommended that each interviewer score the applicant separately, and that at the end of the interview the scores be discussed and averaged.

Contestant Name:

Please circle

	SCORE				
<b>CV</b>					
General presentation	1	2	3	4	5
Achievements general	1	2	3	4	5
Involvement in community/school/university	1	2	3	4	5
Pertinent beef industry achievements	1	2	3	4	5
	<b>Sub total (a) :</b>				<b>/20</b>
<b>Cover Letter</b>					
Cover Letter- reasons for wanting to win this award	1	2	3	4	5
	<b>Sub total (b) :</b>				<b>/5</b>
<b>Interview</b>					
Commitment to the beef industry	1	2	3	4	5
Knowledge of beef industry issues	1	2	3	4	5
Aims and aspirations in the beef industry	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to answer questions	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to organize thoughts and express ideas	1	2	3	4	5
Willingness to invest time back into Angus Youth regardless of current breed	1	2	3	4	5
How good an Ambassador would they be for Angus Youth and their sponsors	1	2	3	4	5
Dress	1	2	3	4	5
Ability to work in a team	1	2	3	4	5
Overall suitability for the award	1	2	3	4	5
	<b>Sub total (c):</b>				<b>/50</b>
Comment:					
<b>Total score:</b>	CV Subtotal (a) * 5	=	/100		
	Cover Letter Subtotal (b) * 10	=	/50		
	Interview Subtotal (c) * 12	=	/600		
		=	<b>/750</b>		

Signed: (Interviewers)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

Date:  
Date:  
Date:  
Date: