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### **Canadian Angus Youth Come Home as Champions**

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**CALGARY, AB** — The Canadian Angus Association on behalf of the Canadian Angus Foundation is thrilled to announce the Canadian Angus youth chosen last spring to compete in the Youth Programme at the 2013 PGG Wrightson World Angus Forum have been awarded champion and reserve champion world titles!

Canada sponsored three teams of four individuals (totaling 12) to compete at the prestigious inaugural event in New Zealand. The Canucks with team members Jared Hunter, Didsbury, Alberta (captain); Patrick Holland, Montague, Prince Edward Island; Melissa McRae, Brandon, Manitoba; and Michael Hargrave, Maxwell, Ontario, brought home the world champion title along with \$10,000 NZ prize money!

“I am so honored to have been selected to represent Canada on this prestigious trip and winning it is truly unbelievable!” said Melissa McRae, winning team member. “I want to thank all the sponsors, organizers and volunteers for making this my best trip ever! Also to congratulate all the other competitors for welcoming us Canadians and for all for their hard work!”

The reserve champion world title was also awarded to a Canadian team, Team B-squarED, consisting of captain Erika Easton, Wawota, Saskatchewan; Ty Dietrich, Forestburg, Alberta; Kaitlynn Bolduc, Stavely, Alberta; and Matthew Bates, Cameron, Ontario. Bates was also announced the high individual for the entire contest, scoring highest in the most challenges as an individual.

Matt Bates explained to his peers after his win, “Named world champion today at the 2013 World Angus Forum Youth Programme in Auckland, New Zealand... Cloud nine doesn't begin to describe it.”

The third team of outstanding youth representing Canada was The Eh Team and included Sean Enright, Renfrew, Ontario, as captain; Stacey Domolewski, Taber, Alberta; Chad Lorenz, Markerville, Alberta; and Breanna Anderson, Swan River, Manitoba. The Eh Team brought home honours for champion Team Presentation.

Team members traveled to Rotorua, North Island, New Zealand, on October 9 for a five-section contest including general knowledge, parading (presentation, showmanship and sportsmanship with an Angus animal), stock judging, animal preparation (clip an animal

for show) and agri-sports (hands-on team challenge involving day-to-day tasks). Team members also had the chance to visit Angus studs in the area and participate in an adrenaline tour with the 10 other teams from across the world. New Zealand included a 150-year celebration of Angus in their country and featured a first-class celebration.

Canadian team members would like to provide a special thank you to Atahua, Turiroa and Kakahu studs for providing heifers for use during the competition.

“I wish all of our [CAA] members could have been here [at the World Angus Forum] to experience this,” said Canadian Angus Association CEO Rob Smith. “Our 12 youth had pride and gratitude for representing us so well this past week. Countless individuals have told me how impressed they were by our capable, friendly, polite Canadian youth ambassadors. We have so very much to be thankful for as our nation celebrated Thanksgiving last week, including a future that includes 12 outstanding young leaders and Angus breeders!”

Initially, the Canadian Angus Foundation had committed to sending up to eight individuals for two Canadian teams to the competition. After reviewing applications, the additional four youth were made possible by an additional contribution from the CAA Board of Directors to financially support this program to include funding for three teams of four.

“Thanks to donors and supporters of the Canadian Angus Foundation’s Building the Legacy Sale along with the Canadian Angus Association and Canadian Angus Foundation Board of Directors,” said Smith. “Without your donation, dedication, leadership and vision, these young folks would not have had this opportunity to bring home the world at the inaugural WAF Youth Programme as the top two champion teams on the globe as well as the top individual.”

The Canadian Angus Foundation functions to preserve and expand the Angus breed for future generations through education, youth development, scientific and market research, and historical preservation. The Canadian Angus Foundation was incorporated in 1993 and is the charitable arm of the Canadian Angus Association.

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