

by Julie Mais  
Editor



## New beginnings

*I stood alone in my dorm room. Just minutes before, the comfort of my parents' presence still filled the small space, and the bustle of unpacking for my first semester at college kept my mind busy.*

The safest, perhaps easiest, choice earlier that spring would have been to stay in my home state of Missouri. I had built-in friendships in Columbia, Mo., from my time in 4-H and FFA programs. My older sister and I would have had a year of college together and as a senior she could have shown me the ropes.

However, I was drawn to the “Little Apple” and that fall, at 18 years old, I trekked west three hours to attend Kansas State University. I didn't know a soul in Manhattan, Kan. — not even my new roommate, whom I had yet to meet in person.

I closed the door and sat down in my desk chair. In the quiet I let myself be overcome by fear and worry about what the future would hold. “I'm alone, and I know no one,” ran through my mind. “Will I be able to handle this?” The weight of this change was heavy, and I leaned into it for a few moments.

Then, with a deep breath I stood up, opened the door and embarked on a new beginning that changed the trajectory of my life. During my time as a Wildcat, I gained knowledge, established a professional network and developed lifelong friends.

Today, looking back, I don't see how I could have made any other choice or imagine life any other way.

Some new beginnings are a choice, some are not. Some are welcomed, and some push their way in.

In this issue we share stories of “New Beginnings,” and of Angus breeders who resolve to start afresh amid tragedy and change. I hope their stories inspire you as they did me.

## Reflect and plan


When welcoming a new decade, new year or even a new day, it's beneficial to reflect and to plan. Twenty-nineteen was a big year for the *Angus Journal*. Just a year ago, we launched additional changes to the redesigned *Angus Journal* in an effort to improve readability and to help you find articles most important to your farm and family.

In the summer we celebrated heritage and progress. August marked the 100-year milestone for the *Angus Journal* — but truly we've been celebrating all year long. Just weeks before our staff celebration, the *Angus Journal* was named the top association publication by the Livestock Publications Council.

Brett Spader joined Angus Media as president and has been leading our team with a focus on innovation with your success as Angus breeders top of mind.

Looking toward 2020, we greet this new decade with excitement and anticipation. The *Angus Journal* team has been developing strategies to extend our print publication to the digital frontier. We look to your

feedback to help guide us in content and dissemination.

We wish you the best in your 2020 endeavors. Happy New Year! 

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie". The script is cursive and elegant.

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## Readership survey

The *Angus Journal* continues to evolve along with the needs of Angus breeders. Help set the tone for future issues and help us to provide better editorial and educational information by participating in a readership survey.

A paper copy of the survey was mailed with your December issue. If you haven't done so, please consider taking a few minutes to answer our questions. To save on postage, or if you are a new subscriber who did not receive the December issue, the survey is available online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/AngusJournal](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/AngusJournal).

To thank you for your time and participation, respondents completing the survey by Feb. 14, 2020, will be entered in a drawing to win one of three prizes including the grand prize — a \$6,000 Angus Media<sup>SM</sup> marketing package. Two more lucky participants will get a \$500 gift card to Greeley Hat Works or \$500 to shop at Rios of Mercedes.