YOUR VIEW

by Mary Wood, Miss American Angus



A bright year ahead

Many young girls involved in the Angus breed have the dream of becoming the woman in the red jacket. For me, that dream came true Nov. 7, 2021, at the Angus Convention in Fort Worth, Texas.

The opportunity to participate in the Miss American Angus contest is an honor, and has allowed me to learn some of the most valuable lessons in life. The Angus breed has been such a huge part of my life.

Over the years I have been provided with wonderful opportunities, been able to establish many friendships, and have gained so much vital knowledge about the Angus breed. During my reign as Miss American Angus, I hope to be able to inspire a passion in other young juniors, much like the previous women before me have done.

It all really started at my first junior nationals in Kansas City, Mo., where I was able to really understand the influence this wonderful breed had on so many other kids.

From that moment on I was devoted to becoming an active member in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). I participated in Angus shows all across the nation and attended many conferences that were offered. So many people have made an impact on my junior career, and I knew I wanted to do the same for other young kids.

Throughout my junior career, I strived to be like the young women who wore the symbolic red jacket — an inspirational, gracious, kind

representation of the Angus breed.

The Miss American Angus contest was a wonderful experience that

allowed me to gain the necessary communication skills to network with people in the Angus industry and educate others.

During the contest we were asked to take

a written test, participate in an interview with the judges and present a speech. The speech topic this year was "Handling Differences." While writing I took time to reflect on what it really meant. When working to achieve our own personal goals and effect change for the people around us, we may encounter differences with others. Throughout the leadership opportunities in my teen years, I have learned tough conversations can be best had when we meet others with empathy and communicate with integrity.

When we take a step back from the situation and put ourselves in another person's shoes, we better understand and appreciate their unique experience. By doing this, we establish relationships. Through these relationships, we are given the opportunity to effectively communicate, sharing our own thoughts honestly and respectfully.

> This practice builds trust, giving both parties the chance to work together to have these tough conversations.

I plan to utilize these tools in order to share my passion for

the Angus breed throughout the next year. I look forward to working alongside leaders in the American Angus Association and American Angus Auxiliary in order to share the mission of our breed.

Being Miss American Angus is the opportunity of a lifetime, and I am excited to use this chance to inspire other young women with the desire to advocate for Angus cattle.

"I look forward to working alongside leaders in the American Angus Association and American Angus Auxiliary in order to share the mission of our breed." — Mary Wood



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