

LEAD IN

Richard L. Spader

Executive Vice President, American Angus Association



There are few things in this life more rewarding than watching young men and women succeed in junior youth work and your National Junior Angus Association. A prime example was our own National Junior Angus Directors and Officers attending and taking part in the Third Youth Beef Industry Congress held recently at Ak-Sar-Ben in Omaha, Neb.

It makes one proud to see these young men and women in action and even more points out the future for our organization with this leadership in the making.

For all of us with sons and daughters involved in Angus youth projects and who support these efforts, I sincerely congratulate you. If your youngster will soon be old enough to start in youth work, I encourage you to help them become introduced to the world of Angus cattle and the worthwhile projects and activities that evolve from these projects.

Involvement as a family is also basic for Angus youth work as it is with other worthwhile programs like 4-H and FFA. Your involvement as parents and adult leaders is basic to young men and women starting on the right course for success. This involvement can be as simple as selling a top quality registered heifer or steer to a youngster as a first project, and then following up to see that the animal is correctly fed and fitted for the county show.

You can also spend time teaching youngsters about other aspects of the

cattle business like performance records and marketing and help them become members of the American Angus Assn. to receive special issues of the Angus Journal and valuable Association literature about cattle production. It's often through this membership that youngsters also become involved in their state, regional or local associations to become a more active part of the junior Angus fraternity in your area.

The Association's interest in educating young people about the beef cattle industry goes back many decades, for it was in 1956 when the Junior Activities Department of the Association was organized and a full time director hired.

Since that time literally thousands of young men and women developed leadership skills and training through involvement with Angus work and many of these youngsters now lead their state, regional and national associations as adult members. Today the number of junior members of the American Angus Association stands at over 7,000 and many more are Regular or Life members of the Association. Our records also show that almost one-third of these young men and women will go on to become active Angus members at some time in their adult life.

So, as we launch into 1986 and a summer full of youth activities, it may be timely to highlight many of the projects your sons or daughters can become involved in.

First, this issue of the Journal highlights numerous shows on a state and regional basis that your children can compete at with registered bulls, females or steers. These shows are climaxed by the National Junior Show in Springfield, Ill., on July 15-18. Don't miss the opportunity to be a part of the competition, education and good fellowship that abounds at these events. In addition to the live competition, the National Junior

Show is also the climax of state showmanship contests where youngsters from across the country vie for top honors on a national basis. Many of these shows will also be the site of junior leadership seminars that highlight many aspects of the beef cattle industry and youth involvement.

Second, your youngsters may be thinking about various levels of the National Junior Angus Recognition program. The three levels, bronze, silver and gold, depict accomplishments in the breeding, production and exhibition of cattle, as well as the leadership accomplishments of these youngsters through various Association, 4-H and FFA activities.

Third, the Association sponsors a job placement program for young cattlemen looking for additional experience on farms and ranches. Each year the program brings young men and women together with prospective employers who need experienced summer help. This program has been complimented by numerous employers and employees who have taken part in the summer placement over the past five years.

Another major goal for many young men and women is the National Junior Angus Board of Directors. These directors guide the activity of many junior events and represent the cream of the crop for their leadership skills and development. You can be proud of these young leaders as they have been elected by their peers to hold this top national office. They are valuable assets as they help at shows, field days, meetings and other junior events.

What I've mentioned are just a few of the major projects of your National Junior Association. It's an inspiring part of our business and one that literally develops the future of our Angus business. So spread the good word about the National Junior Angus programs, and we'll look forward to seeing you at in 1986. **AJ**