
It's a Whole New World

The world is at your fingertips when you become involved in the NJAA Summer Job Program.

For many young people summer is a time to put away the books and relax. However, for some junior Angus breeders, it can be a time to discover what the Angus world has to offer.

That's precisely what Jason Blaylock of San Angelo, Texas, did last summer. "I wanted to see new places, meet new people and see how different ranches worked in other parts of the country," says Blaylock.

Jason got his wish as he was matched up with the John Jeffords family, in Iron Mountain, Wyo. Jeffords says that he hired Jason after reviewing his application



Jason Blaylock

and interviewing him because he believed Jason could do the basic ranch work they needed and take pride in it.

"His responsibilities extended from fences to irrigation to embryo transfer, a good job," says Jeffords. "If the program worked as well for other ranchers and farmers as it did for me, the association should be complimented.

Artificial insemination, heat detection and pregnancy checking were three skills Jason hoped to perfect during his stay at Dirigo Land & Livestock. He says he learned a lot more about those areas and much else. "We did a lot of work on horseback which I really liked."

Spending the summer away from home wasn't a problem for Jason. "I wanted to stay even longer, but had to come home to go to college."

However, you have to wonder how a young man from southwest Texas would like Wyoming winters. "Their summers are like our winters in Texas. We had snow in June, and it was wet all the time," says Blaylock.

Jason enjoyed his summer job experience so much that he hopes to spend the summer of 1994 on a ranch in Australia. "My experience really helped me to be more independent and to learn how to get along with other people. I'd recommend it to other juniors."

International job experience is an option for young Angus breeders looking to expand their horizons. One junior who did just that is Will Grote of Mason, Texas.

In the summer of 1990, Will had the opportunity to spend six weeks in Paraguay at a ranch owned by Antonio and Diane Espinoza. It would be Will's task to teach the Espinoza's son, George, how to fit and show their Angus and Brangus cattle.

"The ranch was very large and carried 1,300 head of commercial cattle. The cattle pens had several holding pens made of palm trees. They would put the bull calves down the chute made of palm trees. A rope would be placed around their neck and then they would open the gate. The calf would come out of the chute, hit the end of the rope, and when his back feet were in the air a cowboy on horseback would rope the hind feet and stretch him out. It was much the same as our team roping," says Will.

Discovering how Angus operations work in other countries can be enlightening. "Overall, my trip was just great and very interesting. I met various new and unusual people. I saw different places...some very beautiful," says Will.

If you are interested in putting your skills to good use and working on an Angus operation in some other part of the country, the National Junior Angus Association Summer Job Program is for you.

Applications are now being taken for the 1994 program. The deadline is March 1.

This program matches junior applicants with Angus operations throughout the United States as well as Canada and other foreign countries. Participants also have a chance to work with the Certified Angus Beef Program.

Since 1979, more than 100 juniors and Angus operations have been involved in this educational program. Thirty-four states, Canada, Argentina, Paraguay and Scotland have been represented.

For an application or more information, contact James Fisher, Junior Activities director, American Angus Association.

So before making your summer plans, consider taking advantage of an opportunity of a lifetime. Spend a summer in a new state or even country learning about what life is like outside your own backyard. You'll have at least one great thing in common with your "summer family" — Angus cattle.

AGRICULTURAL INTERNSHIPS: A Hands-On Education

Colleges and universities across the Midwest are sending students into farms, businesses and laboratories to give them hands-on experience in agriculture.

"Agriculture schools are changing their undergraduate programs to bring the real world into the classroom," says Maynard Hogberg, president of the American Society of Animal Science and head of Michigan State University's department of animal science.

A survey of companies in five Midwestern states showed that 74 percent of the 30 companies responding said they offer internships or cooperative work experience for college students. The survey was conducted by Dennis Brink, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln animal science professor, Russel Erickson of Michigan State University and Margaret Dentine of the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Sixty percent of respondents agreed that most graduates their company hired had completed at least one internship. Most of the companies agreed that graduates hired with internship experience are better employees. Most of the companies also agreed that graduates their company hires would benefit from more internship experience.

Paul Walker, an animal scientist with Illinois State University's Department of Agriculture in Normal, says nearly half of that department's 300 students will have completed an internship program by the time they graduate. "In addition to the work experience, the program helps students develop job-search skills. They prepare resumes, apply for and interview for the internships," he says.

Walker also notes the program helps students focus their career interests. Approximately 59 percent of the students in the program eventually obtain a similar full-time job. The program can be a spring board to a career.

Students can also learn what they don't like through internships, says

Perry Clark, an animal science faculty member at the University of Wisconsin in River Falls. "Some students make the important discovery that a particular kind of employment is not for them," Clark says.

About 140 students annually participate in the UW College of Agriculture internship program. Even

specialized areas such as feedlot management, Klopfenstein says. While feedlots are Nebraska's largest industry, none has management training for new college graduates.

Klopfenstein and Turner designed the feedlot management program to fill that void. The program prepares graduates for managing a feedlot



Student internships are available at the American Angus Association and Angus Journal offices each summer for qualified individuals. Susan Wafers worked in the public relations department before landing a job with an agricultural public relations agency in St. Louis, Mo.

so, there are more internships available than students. The college works with more than 200 companies to offer internships.

"Students come back with a wide variety of experience that allows them to better understand the material they see in the classroom and better appreciate the coursework they've had before," Clark says.

Student internships are at the heart of a feedlot management program offered by University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The program was developed by animal scientist Terry Klopfenstein and agricultural economist Mike Turner.

A bachelors degree in animal production or agribusiness offers only minimal background for jobs in

because students apply what they learned in classes to a real-life situation.

Students begin with eight-week summer courses covering feedlot nutrition, herd health, economics and personnel. Students begin their feedlot internships in July and return to class in late November for three weeks to review their internship experience.

Most of the students who have completed the program since it began five years ago were offered jobs by the feedlot where they interned.

These are only a few examples of how job prospects improve for recent graduates who have had internships or summer jobs that relate to their field of interest.

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