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POSTCARD FROM A JUNIOR



Cutter Pohlman

Numbers, numbers, numbers

Expected progeny differences play a vital role to any successful Angus operation. Unfortunately, these numbers can be difficult for juniors to navigate.

It is important for juniors to realize expected progeny differences (EPDs) are helpful genetic prediction tools to aid them in making breeding decisions to complement the phenotype of an animal.

Over the past couple of decades, EPDs have become a more vital part of any cow-calf operation. These numbers have helped us increase the genetic productivity of our cattle greatly. While continuing to add new EPDs and dollar value indexes (\$Values), advancements in technology and the utilization of genomic markers have made the numbers more accurate. As a result, our breed has easily risen to the top as the Business Breed.

However, making sense of all the numbers and data can be a daunting task for juniors. From all the different EPDs to what the numbers correlate to, it is easy to get lost. Once you understand EPDs and the numbers relevant to your unique goals, you can use them to improve your herd and market the animals that best serve your customers' needs.

Luckily, both the American Angus Association and National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) offer opportunities for juniors to enhance

their knowledge of EPDs and help them learn how to use them. As a young junior, I had the opportunity to learn in detail how to use EPDs and incorporate them in the sales talk contest at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

This taught me how to better evaluate a heifer's EPDs by identifying her strengths and weaknesses, and how to complement her numbers by breeding to certain bulls.

More recently I have attended a number of Angus Conventions that offered educational workshops and presentations about the value of and changes to EPDs. Additionally, the American Angus Association has begun offering webinars to better educate its membership and commercial cattlemen about the value of the numbers. To validate the importance of EPDs to our breed, the NJAS added a phenotype and genotype show to encourage the utilization of EPDs in junior members' herds.



Thanks to our breed's dedicated membership for collecting accurate weights and measurements, the Angus breed has stayed at the top of the game in terms of the value of the breed's database. To stay the course as the Business Breed for the future, I would like to encourage our junior membership to take advantage of opportunities offered to help them "Navigate the Numbers."

Start your journey at <http://www.angus.org/Education/AngusEducation.aspx>.

— Cutter Pohlman

RECOGNITION

Missouri Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show

During the 53rd Annual Missouri Cattle Industry Convention and Trade Show hosted Jan. 8-10, 2021, at Osage Beach, Mo., junior cattle exhibitors were recognized for their hard work and success in the show ring. These junior showmen exhibited cattle at four shows sponsored by the Missouri Cattlemen's Association (MCA).

Olivia Gerloff, Bland, and Lucas Crutcher, Fair Grove, were recognized for exhibiting the top five heifers. Ciara Raithel and Alexis Koelling were recognized for overall heifers in the Angus breed.

Samuel Jordan, Savannah, was recognized for exhibiting both overall Angus market animal and

one of the top-five market animals. Faith Williams, Rhineland, was also recognized for exhibiting one of the top-five market animals.

GROWMARK Scholarship

The GROWMARK Foundation is once again offering a \$1,500 scholarship program for students in the United States and Ontario, Canada, pursuing two- or four-year degrees or trade-school certification in an agriculture-related field.

"As our business has grown and evolved, we saw a need to provide a scholarship to students throughout the United States and Ontario, in addition to the scholarship programs already established in our core geography," says Amy Bradford, GROWMARK corporate communications manager and

GROWMARK Foundation manager. "GROWMARK and the FS member cooperatives are strong supporters of youth leadership education, and this is one more way we can contribute to the future of agriculture."

Applicants must complete an online application which includes academic information, community service and leadership activities, and essay questions regarding agriculture and cooperatives.

Applications will be judged by a panel of agribusiness professionals.

High school seniors or students at any level of higher education may complete the application, which can be found at <https://www.growmark.com/about-us/corporate-commitments>.

Applications are due April 15, 2021, and recipients will be notified by July 1, 2021. **AJ**



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