

# A Moment to Bask In

*Chance Myers named the 2022 Angus Herdsman of the Year.*

*by Megan Silveira, assistant editor*

The grandstands were packed, cattle marching in the show ring. The judges were present, debating which of the outstanding animals would be on the receiving end of the famous champ slap.

Everyone was watching the champion Angus drive at Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 8, 2022 — everyone but Chance Myers.

"I was actually at the washrack," he remembers. "I was doing more of the behind-the-scenes stuff — where I like to be."

Scott Foster, one of Myers' employers at Seldom Rest Farms, Niles, Mich., called and told the 23-year-old he needed to be ringside. Myers had no idea his presence was required at the drive so he could be recognized as the 2022 Angus Herdsman of the Year.

"It was pretty humbling," Myers says. "It's cool to feel noticed and appreciated by some of the people you look up to and are friends with. It was just overwhelming to take it all in."

## Making connections

Myers' childhood took him many places. Traveling because of his father's job, the family spent time in Illinois and Colorado; but it's Edmond, Okla., Myers claims as home. Both his parents, Steve and Joy, had stories of growing up on cattle operations and grain farms.

While he had always gravitated



Chance Myers

towards that lifestyle, it wasn't until his freshman year of high school that Myers found his own calling for the agriculture industry.

"I knew about the cattle industry and showing, but I never really had the opportunity to be involved with the hands-on," he explains. "I got into FFA and fell in love."

Sporting the blue corduroy jacket, Myers dove into the cattle business headfirst. He says he and his family "never had the biggest, fanciest show barn, trailer or even the best cattle," but hard work at home paid off.

"It's something my dad instilled in me," he explains. "If you want something bad enough and work hard enough at it, you'll have some success."

Myers' love for livestock led

him to attend Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and then Oklahoma State University (OSU). He pursued an animal science degree with a business option at OSU but still found time to spend in his favorite environment — the competitive world of cattle shows.

It was during a trip to the National Western Stock Show in Denver, Colo., in 2015 that Myers had his first real encounter with the Foster family and Seldom Rest Farms.

An early morning in the washrack turned into a conversation with Scott Foster, whom Myers says was friendly and complimentary of how he and his family worked together to care for their string of show heifers. Myers found himself frequently walking by the area where Seldom Rest Farms was stalled, admiring the way their team handled themselves.

"It was hard not to like what you saw at Seldom Rest," Myers says. "They were good at working together and presenting cattle."

The interactions between the Fosters and Myers continued, and in 2018, he ended up staying a few extra days in Denver to help the family with their Angus cattle on show day. After the show, Myers was offered a chance to spend the summer working with the Fosters and their 200-head herd.

Leaving the humidity of Oklahoma behind for a few months, Myers spent a majority of his days working cattle to prepare for the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). At the conclusion of his internship, Myers knew he had found his purpose.

“The Fosters have made sure to include me, not just as an employee but as part of the family,” he says. “I came home from there and told my parents that that was the place I wanted to be.”

## Finding purpose

After that summer internship, the Fosters were also sure of Myers’ place on the farm. He was offered a full-time position, and after graduating from OSU in May 2020, he moved to Michigan.

Andrew Foster says his family’s operation centers around raising and selling show cattle for junior projects in their annual production sale and online spring sale. Though there isn’t a large group of people helping with the day-to-day activities on the farm, Foster says Myers has become an integral part of their team.

No matter what is on the agenda, Foster says he can rest easy knowing that as an employee, Myers’ work ethic never wavers.

“He’s always willing to do more. He’s valuable to our team,” Foster says. “His work ethic is something that has always stood out to us and our family. He’s not afraid to get in there and work, and he’ll do it in a good manner.”

Foster is proud of the growth the young man has exhibited since they first hired him and says he admires Myers for the way he treats every aspect of Seldom Rest Farms like its his own. Foster knows his family can trust Myers in a variety of roles, from

the time a calf is born on the farm to when it’s sold, and then even on to when it’s being exhibited in the show ring.

“There’s never really a normal or typical day,” Myers says. “Feeding cattle, checking cattle, washing cattle, working sale cattle, breaking calves — it all just depends on the time of year. There’s always something going on.”

His favorite days, however, are those spent alongside Foster, working calves that are destined for a future in the show ring.

“There’s something about being goal driven, taking care of an animal from the time it’s born,” he explains. “You want to set yourself up for the most success in the show ring. It’s the day-in and day-out grind.”

Foster trusts Myers just as much with their farm’s customers as he does with the cattle.

“He’s great from a customer-relations standpoint,” Foster says. “He’s very professional. He interacts with juniors well on a personal level — a lot of our customers value his friendship, as well.”

It’s this combination of passion, drive and humility that led to Myers being voted the Herdsman of the Year. Myers knows he’s young compared to others who’ve held the title before him, and he feels honored to be recognized.

“It was pretty humbling,” he says. “It was a goal of mine to accomplish at some point, but I definitely didn’t think it would happen this early in life. It made me think a lot about the



people who’ve helped me along the way. It was a lot to take in.”

Foster won the title years ago, so he knows the pride and honor that comes with the recognition.

“We’re every bit as excited that he received it as he is,” Foster says. “He’s earned it. We’re beyond happy that he was recognized for everything that he does.”

Myers thanks his parents; his siblings, Keegan, Hudson and Finley; and the entire Foster family for always supporting his wildest dreams and goals.

For now, Myers looks forward to basking in the accomplishment of this “big post-college goal.” He has long-term plans of continuing to be a part of the Seldom Rest team and hopes to one day have a herd and operation of his own.

Until then, however, he says, “I’ll just have to see what else God has in store for me.” 