

# FOUNDATION IN FOCUS

by Thomas Marten  
Angus Foundation executive director



## We need leaders

*I'm honored to join the Angus Foundation staff, and even more impressed by the incredible passion American Angus Association members have for Angus and building a bright future for Angus youth.*

It is a pleasure to be a philanthropic facilitator to connect you to the impressive and extensive programs, scholarships and research the Angus Foundation supports to grow leaders for our breed.

### Angus landscape

Our rural communities need leaders. If I were to sum up the work of the Angus Foundation in one word, “leadership” is the word which best captures the mission of the Angus Foundation. When I think of the future for the breed, it is clear we need leaders. When we look at the role Angus plays in the beef industry, we see leaders in innovation and improvement.

Coming into a leadership role as your new Angus Foundation executive director, building leaders has been top of mind. Without a doubt, your generosity is building leaders and changing lives. While at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS), a father shared with me how our junior program has influenced his little girl’s confidence and social skills. He witnesses firsthand the return on your investment in the Angus Foundation in the leader his daughter is growing up to be.


The stories of your contributions through the Angus Foundation are told through the lives of those you invest in. Whether it is Angus juniors

or an early-career cattleman learning about new trends in raising quality cattle, you develop the leaders we need today and tomorrow.

### Build a legacy

Building a lasting legacy of leaders for the future of the Angus breed is near and dear to all of us, and we are here to walk with you so it can be your legacy too.

When you make a gift to the Angus Foundation, you have many opportunities to make your gift tax-efficient, maximizing the ability of your generosity to grow young Angus enthusiasts. For example, thanks to recent legislation, you can direct all or a portion of a required minimum distribution from a qualified IRA to a charity like the Angus Foundation. There are many opportunities to make waves for Angus while being tax-efficient from gifts of stock to livestock.

As you look to the future of Angus and how you can invest in the next generation, know the Angus Foundation is here to help you build your legacy. 

*Editor's note: Learn more about how you advance the work of the Angus Foundation and creative, tax-efficient gifts by visiting [www.angusfoundation.org](http://www.angusfoundation.org)*

## Meet Thomas Marten

by Karen Hiltbrand, American Angus Association

Thomas Marten possesses a passion for agriculture, which launched his niche for working in philanthropy.

Previous to joining the Angus Foundation, Marten was director of the FH Excellence Fund and director of advancement for the FarmHouse Foundation, growing both unrestricted and major gifts. Prior to his work with the FarmHouse Foundation, he served as the executive director of the Stark County Farm Bureau and Foundation in Toulon, Ill., where he oversaw the organization’s membership activities, political interests and charitable efforts.

A native of Raymond, Ill., Marten grew up on his family’s farm and earned his bachelor’s degree in agricultural systems from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He resides in Leavenworth, Kan., and his hobbies include traveling, photography and meeting the people who make up our rural communities.