

# FOUNDATION IN FOCUS

by Thomas Marten  
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## Strong enough to bend

*One of country music's leading ladies, Tanya Tucker, imparted profound wisdom in her No. 1 hit, "Strong Enough to Bend." If you recall, her song opens with her sharing the image of a backyard tree that has stood resilient against the wind, because the tree was strong enough to bend.*

In your operation, you're no stranger to literal and figurative storms that test your resilience. Bending is not being weak or abandoning core values. It is demonstrating the ability to pivot, grow and overcome.

When it comes to your charitable impact, the shifting winds of our tax environment may provide different strategies while making a big difference. You may find opportunities that cost you less to give even more. This synergy is what we call tax-efficient giving.

For example, my mother has reached the age where she now must take a required minimum distribution (RMD) from her individual retirement account (IRA). She still has sufficient income from our farm and my late-father's life insurance, so she really doesn't need or want additional taxable income drawn from her IRA. She has come to realize her opportunity to be tax savvy, and is able to donate to causes she cares about through her IRA and thus reducing some, or all, of her RMD.

In December, we shared how John Mrotek made a big impact through a tax-efficient gift. John established a new endowment fund with the Angus Foundation by directly donating appreciated stock. Had

John sold the stock himself and donated the proceeds, he would have had to pay a substantial amount in taxes. By donating his shares to the Angus Foundation, he was able to maximize his charitable impact.

Like John or my mother, you have opportunities to make an impressive impact on the breed. Some of the ways donors, like you, make tax-savvy gifts include donating commodities like grain, including a bequest for the Angus Foundation in your will or estate plans, designating the Angus Foundation as a beneficiary on your policies or investment and retirement accounts, giving from your IRA or donating shares of stock. In fact, there are even more ways to be a part of the mission of the Angus Foundation. Please feel free to call me or speak with your tax advisor about ways you can be both charitable and tax-efficient.


There are many opportunities to establish or endow funds for outstanding programs such as the Beef Leaders Institute, Raising the Bar conference, and Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference, in addition to funding for research and other resources.

These programs rely on continual financial support from donors like you to provide direct impact on

junior members and early career cattlemen, and finding answers to questions that support breeders from genetic merit to regional adaptability of the breed.

When you give, you can be described as charitable or philanthropic. Both descriptions are rooted in love. The root of "charity" is *caritas*, which is Latin for "altruistic love." "Philanthropy" comes from the Greek *philanthropos*, meaning "lover of mankind."

When you give to the Angus Fund or endow a program, you show your enduring love for our breed, breeders and youth. If you remember the song, Tanya Tucker ends by singing, "our love will last forever, if we're strong enough to bend."

P.S. — Scholarship applications are due May 1, 2021. Applications and more information on the Angus Foundation can be found by visiting [www.angusfoundation.org](http://www.angusfoundation.org). 

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