

To Give is to Receive

Bailey Harsh, Angus Foundation Success Story, knows the importance of being invested in.

by Karen Hiltbrand, American Angus Association

The agricultural community is different. It is characterized by early mornings and long days, exceptional work ethic and family businesses that last for lifetimes. It's a place that when help is needed, the answer is never an "if," rather it's a "when." It's different because, like the Angus Foundation, those who carry the next generation are passionate about giving back. The industry knows the importance of supporting each other and encouraging opportunity to individuals like Bailey Harsh.

"It's a no-brainer. You give back to the people that have helped you along the way, or you always try to," says Bailey Harsh, Assistant Professor of Meat Science in the Department of Animal Sciences at the University of Illinois. If Angus needs something, we'll see what we can do."

Named one of the Angus Foundation Success Stories, Harsh has utilized opportunities presented to her as a junior member and young adult to make the most of her career. Big dreams, a strong work ethic and Angus cattle are the common threads between the five Angus Foundation success stories. From their endeavors on the ranch to pursuing their college degrees, they all possess a solid foundation of drive, which has proven them as exceptional role models for juniors across the country.

"In my case raising Angus cattle is something that you understand from

a pretty young age, and the level of responsibility and commitment required to do so helped me develop this level of daily responsibility, commitment and grit," Harsh says.

For Harsh it was growing up on her family's grain and cattle operation in central Ohio, in addition to being a part of the Angus family, that prepared her for the future.

"It has had a huge impact," she says. "I mean probably larger than I could even really articulate actually. From a financial standpoint, the Angus Foundation's support through fellowship programs and all the skills that we gain just being involved in the Association. It's a no-brainer."

The gift

As a junior member, Harsh, like many other National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members, had the same experience of traveling with her family across the country to exhibit Angus cattle. From the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), to youth conferences like Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) and Raising the Bar, Harsh and her younger brother Will, now an American Angus Association regional manager, were directly affected by the Business Breed.

The Angus Foundation supported Harsh as she pursued her educational endeavors and helped her develop relationships. Today,

she uses those same skills in the classroom while she teaches at the University of Illinois.

"The American Angus Association and the National Junior Angus Association specifically have really helped make me a better beef promoter and beef marketer," Harsh says. "It taught me some skills that I used in my future to go out and talk to consumers and feel comfortable interacting with people in a social and casual setting."

Harsh says the Angus Foundation continued to support her as she pursued her educational goals and helped her create relationships.

"When you look back, 10, 15, 20, 30 years from now, it's those skills and friendships that are going to carry you forward in your career and also in your personal life as an Angus breeder for years to come," she says. "I think the NJAA speaks for itself. Just get to one event, and they'll do the rest."

"The Angus Foundation assisted me in developing my career and leadership goals for my future; it had an absolutely critical role," Harsh says. "By being involved in the Association, the Angus Foundation was able to support me through scholarship dollars that enabled me to come out of school with less debt, and enabled me to focus on my career interests, research as well as teaching."

She says from a leadership

Continued on page 118

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standpoint, the Angus Foundation gave her the opportunity to learn from her mentors, and later implement those same ideas to mentor young junior Angus members in the future.

The giver

Now an educator herself, Harsh says her eyes have been opened to the importance of both financial and mentor support from programs like the Angus Foundation.

Now with multiple appointments as an advisor to both undergraduate and graduate students, lecturer and researcher in the Meat Science & Muscle Biology program, she attributes her comfort while speaking to students, both in and out of the industry, to her experiences while competing at NJAS in the public speaking contests.

“I can talk about what *Certified Angus Beef*® actually means and help get across the message that beef is not only safe and wholesome, but a healthy choice,” she says. “My role in helping promote beef probably was mostly strengthened by some of the prepared and extemporaneous speaking skills that I learned interacting within the National Junior Angus Association.”

With a portion of Harsh’s students being from the suburbs of Chicago, she has the opportunity to share her story of agriculture.

“I try to paint the meat industry side of the picture from a scientific standpoint, but also I try to encapsulate my experiences as a producer, and then experiences as an educator,” she says.

Harsh attributes many of her successes to the people who helped mold her into the person she is today, and now she is having the same affect



Harsh works with her students on a daily basis and teaches them from the viewpoint of a scientist, beef producer and consumer.

on the upcoming generation.

“You feel responsible for helping those people to figure out their path of what they want to do, and really you are there to be a sounding board; sharing your experiences, background and knowledge, to help them make decisions,” she says. “I’m certainly not trying to tell anyone what they should do with their future, but just try to help steer them in the right direction.”

Thanks to generous donors of the Angus Foundation, Bailey Harsh,

Daniel McFarland, Zeb Gray, Jara Settles and Michael Cropp had the opportunity to dream big and follow their professional dreams. These are just a few of the many Angus Foundation Success Stories to tell. 

Editor’s note: For more information about applying for an Angus Foundation-supported scholarship or becoming a donor, visit www.Angusfoundation.org.