

by Julie Mais  
Editor



## Cultivating Your Craft

*As I sit down to write this month's column in mid-April, I can't help but think how much the world has changed in a mere month.*

In March, the *Angus Journal* team wrapped up the April issue on a Friday, business as usual. I was in the office on Monday and by Tuesday I was working from home. The following week brought official “stay at home” orders where I live.

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has drastically changed lives around the world and brought economies to a halt. A public health crisis of this magnitude was unconceivable to me just two months ago, and to be honest I'm not sure I can wholly grasp how deeply this has and will continue to alter humanity's future.

The *Angus Journal* team in its entirety pulled together this issue for our readership while grappling with a swift change in work environments. The possibility of the team transitioning to work-from-home was talked about weeks in advance, but I don't think any of us truly thought it would actually happen and so quickly. Within days innovative digital processes were developed, new technologies utilized and everyone became more accustomed to virtual meetings. I'm so proud to

say from advertising to editorial, we haven't missed a beat.

We are not unlike Angus breeders from coast to coast who are dealing with their own set of changes and uncertainties in this tumultuous time.

Canceled plans and more time spent at home have allowed my husband and I to tackle that long to-do list. During the past month spring has brought some sunny days, and those have been spent outside taming the overgrown landscape inherited from previous owners. There is one tree stump that continues to fight back and wants to regrow even though we've tried our hardest to beat it down.

No matter the outside pressures, Angus breeders are resilient. Generations of cattlemen have dealt with economic hardships and the wrath of Mother Nature. And though I don't want to gloss over how real and terribly tough those times can be, Angus breeders have the grit to come out the other side. Nothing ever has been or ever will be easy when raising cattle.

This issue, “Cultivating Your Craft,” is about the next generation who will

carry on the tradition of weathering the storm. We introduce you to young entrepreneurs who give us all hope the future of the Angus breed is in good hands.

On behalf Angus Media and *Angus Journal* staff, thank you to our subscribers and our advertisers who continue to trust us with bringing you valuable information and offering a way to help you market your registered Angus cattle. **AJ**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie".

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How is COVID-19 affecting you? What good stories have you witnessed or silver linings discovered during this time? Please share your stories with us, and we may share your stories with other Angus breeders. Email me at [jmais@angus.org](mailto:jmais@angus.org), contact us on social media, write or call.