

by Julie Mais
Editor



Decisions, decisions, decisions

Our life's story is a series of decisions. Big or small, choices made define our path forward.

My parents' decision to gift me a heifer when I was 2 years old paved the way for pride and ownership on my family's farm. My husband and I recently chose a heifer for our own soon-to-be 2-year-old daughter to start her herd. We want to give her the opportunity to stay involved in production agriculture if she chooses to when she's older.

A few weeks ago, I visited some friends in Manhattan, Kan.

I was driving north on Highway 177, or better known now as Bill Snyder Highway, and I recalled a big decision I made as a high school senior — a decision I now realized was based on one visit to campus and a lot of faith. My last-minute choice to attend Kansas State University instead of the University of Missouri, which I had always planned to, directed my path in many ways to where I am today.

On another trip to the "Little Apple," I was reminded by a longtime mentor of a seemingly "risky" decision

I made with my first job. I accepted a position in a state I had only been to a few times, to work for someone I had never met in person. Maybe

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

— Proverbs 3:5-6

there was a pattern in my younger days revealing that I enjoyed an adventure, but I'm thankful it all worked out so well.

As I ponder on many defining decisions in my life so far, I appreciate that maybe there isn't


one clear path to big, and small, decisions. Some decisions are based on data, others on intuition. At times bigger risks can be taken, but there are moments when we should play it safe. Considering goals, ambitions, dreams and values — those all play into how we move through life.

For me, many of these decisions come with prayer. Proverbs 3:5-6 reads "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

Their defining decisions

In this issue we celebrate some of the Angus breed's premier decision-makers. As part of the "Heritage Herds" special section, we share stories of four Angus Heritage Foundation members who embody the purpose of this honor — those who have helped build the reputation for the Angus breed as "innovators and visionaries who possess drive and wise decision-making skills to better the breed and the industry."

Turn to page 41 to see a list of Angus breeders who have spent more than five decades in the Angus business: Historic Angus Herds.

We have a lot to learn from those who have paved the way in this business. Those who prove by taking calculated risks and having a whole lot of faith, you can find success in the Angus breed. 

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

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