

by Julie Mais  
Editor



## It takes all kinds

*I was headed north from Kansas City kicking off a long trip to cover an event with my summer intern riding shotgun. Making small talk early in the drive, I asked how writing for a cattle publication was different than her experience in the sorghum industry.*

Coming from Texas, the second-largest sorghum-producing state, she had covered the industry, everything from writing feature stories to market reports.

Her answer struck me — she described something I sometimes take for granted, yet something I love about our U.S. beef industry.

“There’s more variety in how farmers and ranchers raise cattle,” she explained, adding a contrasting view of crop farmers and cattlemen. We then talked extensively about the differences in environments, goals, breeding programs, marketing avenues, feedstuffs utilized and operation sizes that make up the beef industry in the United States.

My favorite thing about my job isn’t editing and proofreading. Story planning may be a close second, but what I appreciate the most is the opportunity to visit farms and ranches across the country. It’s an honor to learn about breeders and tell the stories of how each combine

doing what they love with what they have to turn a profit — whether that be one full income, or a side gig to their off-farm occupations.

In my years as an agricultural journalist, I know I’ve only reached the tip of the iceberg when it comes to learning about the more than 700,000 beef cattle farms and ranches sprinkled across the nation.

### Sized to scale

This issue is dedicated to Angus breeders from all sizes of operations. In the August *Angus Journal*, “Sized to Scale,” we visit with cattlemen from small to large herds and learn how the Angus breed works for them and their customers.

All kinds of operations are important to our business and all can raise cattle that meet customer’s standards and needs based on their area. Even the smallest herd benefits from genetic tools available through the American Angus Association when it comes to selection decisions.

In this issue, we are excited to introduce you to three diverse Angus herds from Montana, Missouri and South Carolina. These Angus breeders prove that the Angus breed fits in operations sized to scale.

Be sure to turn to page 43 to gain perspective on the makeup of the membership, as well as page 46 to learn how a group of Angus breeders are “Better Together” when marketing cattle through a cooperative sale.

We round out this issue honoring Certified Angus Beef LLC’s Steve Suther, industry information division director, who was recently inducted into the Livestock Publications Council Hall of Fame.

As we think about the Angus breed, and the beef industry in its entirety — it takes all kinds and sizes to keep moving forward.

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

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