

by Mark McCully
CEO, American Angus Association



Foundation for the future

When you think about the foundation of a building, you know it's the critical, load-bearing part of a structure the rest is built upon. Without a solid foundation, the integrity of that structure is compromised.

As I think of our Angus Foundation, many parallels can be drawn. The core pillars — youth, education and research — make for a solid base that the future of the Angus breed will be established upon. As I consider the significance of the Angus Foundation, I am incredibly grateful for the generous donors, remarkable volunteer leaders, and dedicated and talented staff who built what we have today.

The Angus Foundation has granted some truly amazing opportunities for Angus juniors and seasoned cattlemen and women to learn and grow. I have always been fascinated at the complexity of this industry, and it's exciting that the Angus Foundation provides so many opportunities to learn and gain invaluable perspective.

I recently joined the Beef Leaders Institute (BLI) attendees on their first and last days. The 20 impressive young industry leaders who were a part of that week got visibility and insight into this cattle industry that few are able to experience. I have no doubt that opportunity will have a marked and significant impact on those attendees.

I appreciate the continued partnership of the Angus Foundation and Certified Angus Beef LLC to support this great program.

Jump-starting juniors


The National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) may be the most visible showcase of the influence the Angus Foundation can have in the lives of juniors every year; and just coming off the 2019 NJAS, I saw that effect firsthand from a vantage point I've never had before. The depth and breadth of contests to experience, the constant and unwavering support of students' education and the celebration of juniors' accomplishments are what dreams — and the Angus Foundation — are made of.

Our scholarship program is industry-leading and has long been a cornerstone of the Angus Foundation. Providing that additional financial assistance for young folks to pursue their dreams is not only important, it's literally life-changing. Countless stories can be told by past recipients sharing how critical those dollars were to getting them through school, allowing them to fully focus on their academics. It was humbling to be a part of handing out those many scholarships in Louisville, and I loved meeting the incredible recipients. What a future we have!

Support for science

I believe an equally important pillar of the Angus Foundation

moving forward is research. Funding for important beef cattle production research continues to become scarcer in the academic community, yet important questions that impact ranch success and profitability are left unanswered. Angus breeders rely on sound science to make genetic and management decisions. I believe the Angus Foundation can be an industry leader in helping to identify, support and fund the necessary research to make sure cattlemen and women have sound science-based answers to improve their operations.

The agricultural community is unique in so many ways, but I guess I've always been most struck by the generosity of farmers and ranchers. They give to their communities and quickly help one another in times of need. They think of the future and have unwavering support for the next generation. Angus breeders most definitely embody this generosity and philanthropic spirit as evidenced by the tremendous support of the Angus Foundation over its existence. It's inspiring and keeps me incredibly optimistic about our future. 

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Mark A. McCully". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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