



**Executive Vice President,
American Angus Association**



Thomas Edison, a virtual workaholic, was scolded one night by his wife for never taking time off or going on vacation.

Where would I go? Edison asked her.

"Just sit back and relax," his wife advised him, "and think about the one place on earth you would like to be more than any other place."

Edison, who had the resources to go anywhere he liked, thought for a minute and then promised his wife, "I'll do it, and go there tomorrow."

The next day he was back in his laboratory

My observation is that many an Angus breeder loves his or her work at least as much as did Thomas Edison. If this wasn't the case, the Angus breed wouldn't be the largest in North America and there wouldn't be the multitude of Angus people in volunteer leadership positions throughout the cattle business.

It has been my experience that people who don't love the business they are in and who do not think it is important that certain things get done for the good of everyone don't volunteer. They don't attend many meetings or agree to serve on committees or boards. When upon those rare occasions someone takes on a volunteer job for the prestige or stature they think the position will afford them, they invariably blaze brightly then burn out fast.

These people soon find that volunteer work is just that, more work. And unless the volunteer is dedicated and committed, all the fun and recognition one gets from some jobs, combined with the great people one gets to meet and work with, don't equal the sacrifices required. Sacrifices like long hours away from home, family and business.

For these reasons, I am encouraged by the number of Angus people who are involved in all phases of our business, making important contributions.

The most recent of these observations was the National Junior Angus Show in Omaha, Neb., and the untiring efforts of the Nebraska adults and juniors who made this such a great success. For more than a year, the Nebraska folks have worked on this national event. It will go down in history as one of the biggest and best ever.

This spring I also attended the Beef Improvement Federation meeting in Canada. I not only saw a number of U.S. Angus breeders in attendance there, but also the largest representation of breeders from any breed who had been nominated as Seedstock Award nominees from their respective states. This tells me that Angus breeders are involved on the state level with all aspects of performance work and their work is not going unnoticed.

I'm sure I could mention numerous examples on a state and national basis but the point is the same. We're a business of beef producers, but we're also a group of cattlemen and women who participate and get things done for the benefit of the breed and beef industry.

My hat is off to all of you who take an active role to make this a better industry

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