

Lending a Hand



► Jerry Cassidy visits with Wisconsin junior Angus member Emily Hartzell during the check-in process at the National Junior Angus Show. Wisconsin juniors greeted all exhibitors as they checked in cattle.



► Don Laughlin, regional manager for Iowa and Missouri, works with Lacey Robinson, National Junior Angus Association Board member from Missouri, to review registration papers during the check-in process in Milwaukee.

Regional managers offer helping hands, advice to junior members at National Junior Angus Show and Angus events across the country.

Story & photos by *Shelia Stannard*

Think back to Angus shows or events you've attended. The places may change from year to year. A different judge probably evaluates the cattle, or a different person speaks about the newest beef industry developments. Some things always change, but the one thing that remains the same is that your regional manager will probably be in attendance.

Regional managers are as much a part of a junior event as a showstick, a can of adhesive and a blue ribbon. They are there to assist junior members, both in and out of the showring.

Morgan Woodward, an American Angus Association member from Gallipolis, Ohio, who is in her final year of junior eligibility, says she remembers her regional manager, Chuck Grove, always being at events and helping out.

"I knew he was somebody

important by the way he dressed, the way he carried himself and by the sound of his voice," Woodward recalls. "I always look forward to going to shows to see Chuck. He always has a hug for me."

Grove, who has been a regional manager for 27 years and covers the states of Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee, says it is a priority to get to know the junior members and to be accessible to them so they know they can ask for advice.

Helpful advice

In addition to befriending junior members, regional managers also say they are sought out for help and advice. The advice sought varies from preparing for the contests at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), to showmanship techniques, to selecting genetics and buying cattle.

Grove says he has assisted juniors by helping set up state displays and giving last-minute advice before

showmanship competitions. He adds that some years he is more active than others, and how much he gets involved depends largely on the state he's in and the juniors who ask.

Most regional managers agree that they don't ever force their thoughts or ideas on junior members, but wait to be approached for help.

"If they come to me and want help, I'm going to help them,"



says Jerry Cassady, a 10-year regional manager who covers Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin. Cassady says that due to the number of junior activities in his territory, he spends a high percentage of his time working with junior members.

Don Laughlin, who covers Iowa and Missouri and is approaching his 23rd year as a regional manager, says the advice he gives varies from helping junior members on public speaking topics to helping them find cattle to buy.

He adds that sometimes he is asked for general advice on life. He says he directs young Angus breeders to other resources or people who can help answer their questions.

John Dickinson, who has been a regional manager for four years in Arizona, California and Nevada, says he encourages youth from his territory to attend the NJAS, even if they can't haul cattle. He says the events and activities are great ways to get involved in the junior programs and to meet new people.

"John really understands what goes on at the National Junior Show, and he encourages us to participate in the activities and contests," says Rebecca Sayre, a junior member from Port Costa, Calif. "He always tells us we have nothing to lose, and we really appreciate all the time and support he gives us on the West Coast."

When needed most

Although the regional managers enjoy helping young Angus enthusiasts prepare for various contests and the showing, Cassady says it is also important to be there for the young people *after* an event. He has had several junior members from his territory run for junior Board positions, and says he has been there when his juniors didn't get on the Board.

"When you do get on the Board, you're excited and don't

need a regional manager," Cassady says. "But when you don't get elected, you need an answer, and a person to talk to for consolation."

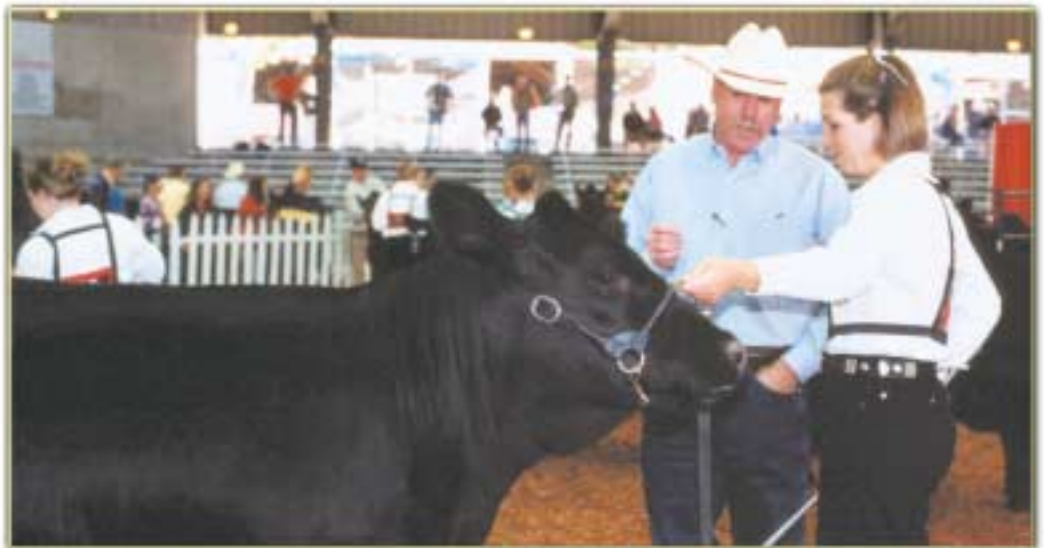
Whether looking for advice, a friendly smile or a hug, regional managers are there for junior Angus members. And they enjoy seeing their advice and help pay off.

"I get the biggest bang out of seeing these kids grow up," Laughlin says. "Very few Angus kids grow up with problems. They are responsible and well-respected."



Now, from the home office of the American Angus Association, comes the top 10 pieces of valuable advice given by Association regional managers. Jerry Cassady, John Dickinson, Chuck Grove, Don Laughlin and Richard Dyar offer the following advice to juniors attending the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

1. Do everything you can. The NJAS is more than a cattle show.
2. Thank your parents or whoever brought you here. They took a lot of time and effort to get you to the NJAS.
3. Spend as much time as possible getting to know people and making friends from all parts of the country.
4. Be courteous and appreciative of all the work the host state does to provide a great event for you.
5. Have a good time.
6. Make friends. You'll remember the people you meet much longer than you will remember who won the show.
7. Check to make sure that your tattoos match your registration papers *before* you leave home.
8. Get entries completed properly and turned in prior to the entry deadline.
9. Never dwell on how your animal places in class.
10. Become active in the other contests. Just because you don't have an animal doesn't mean that you can't participate in the contests and activities.



►Chuck Grove encourages Morgan Woodward, Gallipolis, Ohio, before she goes into the showing to compete in the final round of showmanship. Woodward says she always looks forward to seeing Grove at Angus shows and events.



►Chuck Grove checks tattoos for a junior member in Milwaukee. Grove says it is important to get to know junior members and to be accessible to them.