

Donors are the Foundation

It was the year 1980, when the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) and Angus Foundation were formally established. At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Kansas City, the first junior board was elected.

by Lindsay King, assistant editor

“Wishing to help raise funds for the Angus Foundation, the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB), American Angus Association directors and staff developed the Angus Foundation Heifer package concept,” says Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president. “The first heifer was donated by A.F. Flint & Sons of Bard, N.M., and sold to Jim Baldrige of North Platte, Neb., for \$6,000.”

The auctioneer at the very first event was the country music star Leroy Van Dyke. This inaugural fundraiser still plays a crucial role in the Foundation’s budget every year.

“Unrestricted proceeds from the package each year help fund the NJAB and an array of high-profile activities,” Jenkins says. “This includes the Leaders Engaged in Angus (LEAD) Conference, Cattlemen’s boot camps and the Beef Leaders Institute (BLI), just to name a few. It also helps fund ‘cutting-edge’ beef cattle research projects.”

The package includes generous “add-ons” from American Livestock Insurance Co., Lathrop Livestock Transportation, TransOva Genetics and its cloning division ViaGen. The heifer and package are offered each year at the start of the National Western Angus Bull Sale.

“The Foundation fundraising tradition has raised more than \$2.5 million for the mission of education, youth and research,” Jenkins adds.

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The record-setting heifer, donated by Rishel Angus from North Platte, Neb., sold in 2006 for \$250,000 to Canyon Creek Angus of Cody, Wyo.

Charles W. Herbster, of Herbster Angus in Falls City, Neb., has purchased the heifer package five consecutive years in a row, a record. He has contributed a total of \$805,000 to the Foundation through these purchases.

2019 Angus Foundation Heifer Package

“Receiving the invitation from the Foundation to donate an elite Angus heifer is considered by our breeders to be a prestigious honor,” Jenkins says. “Nationally recognized leading Angus programs are identified by Foundation and Association officials. Except for two instances, different Angus breeders

from across the United States have been invited to donate the heifer.”

This year, the heifer is donated by Eldon and Louisa Krebs of Krebs Ranch out of Gordon, Neb.

“The opportunities created by the Foundation have a positive and lasting impact on the Angus youth,” says Eldon Krebs. “We’ve witnessed this firsthand in our own children, Ty and Kami, during their time as junior Angus members.”

Now Ty and Kami play an integral role in the family ranching operation, and they thank the Foundation for preparing them through the leadership activities, scholarships and support of the NJAS.

“It’s our turn to help,” Krebs says. “We’re honored to stand with the Foundation in a ‘win-win’ relationship that, through this contribution, will help the Foundation give to future generations of Angus families, as it graciously gave to our family.”

Krebs will be identifying the heifer they plan to donate soon and are excited to reveal their selection.

“One can only be humbled by the generosity of our buyers and donors of the Angus Foundation Heifer Package,” Jenkins adds. “Their passion, dedication and enthusiasm for giving back to the Angus breed through their support of the Foundation to help Angus youth pursue their dreams is truly inspiring to us.” 

