



# Molding the Champion

*A mom's hug, a dad's beaming smile, a friend's encouragement — behind every great junior Angus exhibitor comes an equally dedicated and passionate parent.*

*by Megan Silveira, editorial intern*

Raised in the town of Hereford, Texas, boys Cutter and Colter Pohlman are proud to be fourth-generation Angus breeders. While the boys might be the face of their family's operation in the show ring, they say their parents, Scott and Moriah, are the driving force of their success.

"They help us with everything," Cutter explains. "They're just as much involved as we are. Really, we couldn't do it without them."

From fitting cattle on show day to sweating in the sun as they fix fences back home, Colter says his parents are always hard at work. On an operation without any outside help, both the boys recognize and respect the dedication of their parents.

"It's a family business," Cutter says. "They're always there for you, whether you mess up or have a good day, it's a family ordeal."

With a family history rich in experience with the Angus industry, the Pohlman sons feel blessed to be learning from their parents. In and out of the show ring, Scott and Moriah are teaching their children to be phenomenal cattlemen and even better people.

"It's great to have excellent teachers who know what you're going through," Colter says.

He appreciates the chance to learn from both his parents, but says he can sometimes become intimidated by the thought of trying to live up to their past successes in the cattle industry.

During their time spent showing cattle, Scott and Moriah ingrained a few life lessons into the minds of

their boys. Colter tries to live by his parents' motto of "be a humble winner and a humbler loser," while Cutter repeats the mantra "always be honest and don't try to take any shortcuts."

These parents' involvements stretch outside of the cattle world, however. Cutter and Colter have been home-schooled by their mother for the past several years, a decision of their choosing. The boys help Moriah keep

the ranch running while their father's position as a general manager at Cargill pulls him away from the operation during the day.

With a more challenging curriculum than what the boys could find in public schooling and the opportunity to claim job positions on the family's operation, Cutter and Colter say they love having their mother as their teacher.

Scott and Moriah have been mentors for children outside of their family as well, serving as advisors for



*The Pohlman family (from left) Colter, Scott, Moriah, and Cutter. From being home-schooled to stretching fence and working cattle together, Angus is a family affair for the Pohlmans.*

*Continued on page 46*

the Texas Junior Angus Association the last six years.

From helping National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members prepare for shows like the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) to offering wisdom as juniors prepare for various competitions, Scott and Moriah's sons confirm their parents help NJAA members across the state of Texas reach their fullest potential.

Another successful NJAA member can be found in Curryville, Mo., hard at work in the show barn. While Alexis Koelling feels at ease in the pasture surrounded by black-hided cattle, "Lexi" has not always called the Angus industry home.

Her parents, Brock and Michele Meyer, were married in 2016. With Brock's strong dedication to the breed and her own ability to see the cattle industry leaning towards Angus, the 14-year-old decided to transition away from the Shorthorn breed.

A fan of the show ring, Lexi is no stranger to the seedstock industry. She describes herself as competitive, saying it's just the way she runs. But Lexi did not become the showman she is today on her own.

"Growing up, I always watched my mom in the barn. In the beginning, she taught me to be competitive," Lexi explains. "But Brock and my mom together, they really taught me how I can be the best."

When describing her life on the family's ranch, Lexi cannot paint a complete picture without including her parents. From memories created in pasture feeding and treating cattle with Brock to time in the barn with Michele, Lexi knows she would not be as confident in herself and her cattle without the influence of her parents.

"They really taught me how to work and how to get things done right," she says. The positive attitude Michele brings to the table and Brock's eagerness to help have shown Lexi her parents are

committed to more than just the cattle. They both have instilled the importance of working hard at home in Lexi's mind.

With Michele and Brock around, Lexi never finds herself losing the courage to take on an opportunity in the Angus industry.

"They motivate me a lot," Lexi admits. "I get nervous for a lot of things, especially things that mean a lot to me, like the cattle. But they're always there to motivate me and keep me going when I need it most."

She says she is thankful to have a set of parents so willing to be a part of her passion in life. Lexi treasures her family and counts herself lucky that Brock and Michele are always ready to chase her dreams with her at the next cattle show.

### *Being Angus parents*

With proud smiles, Scott and Moriah Pohlman watch from the sidelines as their two sons exhibit a string of strictly bred-and-owned (B&O) cattle at the NJAS. The boys are carrying on the Pohlman family tradition of raising and exhibiting Angus cattle.

"With us both coming from that background, it's certainly rewarding to see them getting involved and finding their way," Scott says.

Both parents served on the National Junior Angus Board (NJAB) when they were junior members, and Moriah

spent a term as Miss American Angus. These two cattle enthusiasts met for the first time at a Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference, marking the start of their Angus story.

It is no surprise these parents ensured the family legacy of owning and exhibiting high-quality Angus cattle continued with their children. Since giving the boys their first heifers at the age of one, the Pohlmans have loved watching Cutter and Colter grow up Angus.



*Alexis Koelling (center) is thankful to have a set of parents, Brock (left) and Michele (right) Meyer, willing to be part of her passion in life: Angus.*

From quiz bowl to team sales, Cutter and Colter learned early on what their mother meant when she told them the Angus industry was about “more than just showing.” Scott says the boys gained knowledge about cattle, honed their public speaking skills and made numerous friends sharing their passion for cattle.

Moriah has been impressed with the desire the boys have to grow. She hopes the activities they participate in now will help them become better advocates for agriculture in the future.

Besides the success the boys have found in the cattle industry, Scott and Moriah are proud of the growth they have witnessed in their children.

“I think they’ve developed a respect and an appreciation for being caretakers for God’s creations,” Scott explains. “And that’s probably one of the most important lessons they’ve learned.”

Like most parents, however, Scott and Moriah give all credit to the boys. Moriah loves seeing the hard work they put in at home paying off. In fact, she admits she and Scott “have never even thought of themselves as Angus parents,” despite living up to the title every day.

“We just try to give them the opportunity to have the experiences that provide a good path for them and trust they’ll make good decisions,” Scott says.

Moriah believes she and her family “bleed Angus” and considers it a blessing to be able to raise their children in this industry.

## *Finding a place*

Since the moment Lexi purchased her first Angus heifer, Brock and Michele Meyer have enjoyed watching their daughter find her place in the Angus industry. Brock permanently became a part of Lexi’s life when he married Michele two years ago, sparking her start as an Angus breeder.

While Michele says Lexi always had a passion for Angus cattle, Brock inspired their daughter to become fully immersed in the breed. Brock’s family quickly accepted Lexi as their own and introduced her to the Angus family.

“Stepping back and watching Brock being a step-

dad, he doesn’t have to do what he does,” Michele says. “He chooses it. He gives her the opportunities.”

Both Brock and Michele have enjoyed watching Lexi grow during her time as a NJAA member, saying they are amazed at the personal changes she has undergone since attending her first Angus show in 2012. Having both been raised in the cattle industry, the Meyers believe cattlemen are the type of people Lexi should be raised around.

“The people involved are just our kind of people,” Brock explains. “For something this big, there’s just so many good, like-minded people. There’s no better way for Lexi to grow up.”

Despite becoming Angus parents fairly recently, Brock and Michele have embraced the titles, even if they might not realize it.

“Our job as parents is to quiz her about her goals and help her find the opportunities to achieve them,” Michele says, perfectly summarizing the selfless attitude parents of NJAA members possess.

Brock agrees with his wife, saying all the business decisions they make nowadays are made with Lexi in mind. He aims to keep the ranch running and successful to the point where Lexi can one day come back and make a living.

“We just want to give her the tools to open the right doors,” he adds. “I don’t want to ever be the limiting factor.”

Both Brock and Michele recognize the drive, determination and talent their daughter possesses, but never once credit themselves for the excellent woman and showman Lexi is becoming.

“It’s bigger than just a cow show or a breed,” Michele says. “It’s about the community that goes along with being an Angus parent.”

Each day Angus parents are molding champions. 

