

FOUNDATION IN FOCUS

by Thomas Marten
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Lessons in turbulence

It was a return flight after visiting farms in Panama when our plane hit incredible turbulence over the Caribbean. People were jostled violently as my hand was white-knuckled, clenched to my arm rest, while praying and thinking this may be it.

A few minutes later, heart still pounding, we came through. I was grateful but still braced for an unanswered question, “Lord, what is next?”

The challenges presented in 2020 have been unexpected. These challenges have caused careful analysis of priorities and most importantly, they have strengthened resolve and demonstrated the importance of first things. Our Angus youth rise to the challenge.

If you read C.S. Lewis or Covey, you’re familiar with the concept of putting “first things” first so second and third things can follow. In the Angus Foundation our “first things” are youth, education and research. It is through this mission that so many of you have generously stepped forward to advance the Angus breed.

Breaking through turbulence

The future of the Angus breed should excite us. During the past several months, we have seen daunting adversities but, most strikingly, we have seen incredible resilience. Young men and women continued to invest hard work in caring for their cattle and learning life’s tough but rewarding lessons.

At a time when higher education seems out of reach, more than 80 new Angus Foundation Scholars earned academic scholarships and

will be encouraged by you and all donors in their studies. Your financial generosity and support mean the mission, our “first things,” don’t stop even when the world does.

This year has provided opportunities of relevance for us as donors. The newest incentive to give came through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act which Congress passed earlier this year. A provision in the legislation created a \$300 above-the-line tax deduction for charitable gifts to 501(c)(3) organizations, such as the Angus Foundation. If you haven’t thought about a charitable gift before, this is a great time to experience the joy which comes from building on a mission you care about.

The adage of, “If you want to eat an elephant, you eat it one bite at a time,” can apply to your own philanthropy. You want your gift to be meaningful, and there are ways to make it work well for you. For instance, many loyal donors set up a recurring monthly gift. This allows them to make a large effect on our mission, one monthly “bite” at a time.

If you find yourself in Sharon Springs, Kan., you might discover Dale Radial’s Wrench Museum. His collection includes more than 10,000 pieces demonstrating every job has a right tool. Like wrenches, charitable gifts don’t have to be one size fits all.

Many donors look at ways of giving that are tax efficient, some even look at charitable opportunities which can earn them income. The Angus Foundation is ready to answer your questions and work with you on a gift that meets your philanthropic goals.

Moving forward, together

The Beatles sang, “one and one and one is three,” in their song *Come Together*. When we come together for a common goal, we accomplish more. Equipping our Angus youth with leadership skills, encouraging Angus scholars in their studies and answering questions through research are goals shared across the breed. This drives the Angus Fund.

The Angus Fund is how Angus breeders, enthusiasts and supporters come together to accomplish a larger effort. Through unrestricted, mission-focused support, your Angus Fund gift enables your philanthropic intent to become a reality for young individuals. Because the Angus Fund is unrestricted, your contribution means first things, our shared mission, come first.

We are here to be a resource to you in your philanthropic decisions. Visit www.angusfoundation.org, to discover more stories of impact, find ways to leave a legacy through an estate gift and make your charitable gift today. **AJ**