

Herdsman of the Year

Kansas native named recipient of the Junior Herdsman of the Year award at the 2020 National Junior Angus Show in Tulsa, Okla.

by Madi Baughman, editorial intern

Angus producers truly live and breathe for their love of the cattle industry. Many come from generations of passionate farmers and ranchers dedicated to providing high-quality cattle and end products to consumers and producers alike.

Since birth

For Cale Hinrichsen of Westmoreland, Kan., involvement in the Angus breed began when his aunt purchased his American Angus Association junior membership the day he was born.

“Literally from day one I have been involved in the Angus Association,” Hinrichsen says. “And at 2 weeks old, I went to my very first sale.”

His lifetime involvement in the Association and the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) led to his peers nominating him for the Junior Herdsman of the Year Award at the 2020 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Tulsa, Okla. The son of Ron and Lynne Hinrichsen says the fact “the barn” voted for him to receive this honor makes it all the more special.

Hinrichsen explains, “The biggest thing that this award to means to me is that, in my way, I’ve been able to make an impact on other juniors that are younger than me as well as the same age within my peer group through the things that I’ve been involved in and the way I have carried myself.”

The highlights

Throughout his junior career,



Cale Hinrichsen, Westmoreland, Kan., (left) was recognized as the Junior Herdsman of the Year. Presenting the award is his sister, Eva, who serves as Miss American Angus.

Hinrichsen has displayed hard work, dedication and enthusiasm for Angus cattle. An active member of the Kansas Junior Angus Association (KJAA), Hinrichsen held many offices and served as a voting delegate.

He also attended multiple Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) and Raising the Bar conferences, allowing him to connect with junior members from all across the country. This led him to pursue even more opportunities on the national level.

Of all his involvement in the NJAA, Hinrichsen says one of his most rewarding experiences was serving



Cale (right) says his family has played a part in his success as a junior member. Also pictured (from left) are Eva, Ron and Lynne.

as the Angus Ambassador in 2018-2019. Through this role he says he began to interact with American Angus Association members and network by attending conferences to represent the breed. He also had the opportunity to attend the Canadian version of LEAD.

In the show ring

Hinrichsen says some of his favorite memories are his wins in the show ring, including reserve champion bull at NJAS in 2016 and a division winner at the Phenotype and Genotype Show in Tulsa this year. While he's had multiple successes, he also credits the losses with teaching him humility and the value of never giving up.

"All the learning curves may not be fun in the moment," Hinrichsen says. "But I look back on it and don't regret any of them at all."

Of all the things he will miss about being a junior member, he says the quality time spent with Eva, his sister, as they worked cattle together will be one of the biggest.

"Those long days, early mornings and late nights that I've spent with my sister, they're priceless," Hinrichsen says. "They're timeless. That's something I'm going to cherish because you can't get that any other time unless you're showing as a junior."

The legacy

Hinrichsen says he hopes people remember him as someone who worked for everything he had. Since his parents' herd started with one Angus cow and grew to now a 150-head operation, he is inspired to continue growing within the breed and as a person in the livestock industry.

"The biggest thing is to continue raising Angus cattle to meet the customer market to the best of our ability," Hinrichsen says. "It'd be fun to raise some show heifers on the side absolutely, and I think a lot of that is a byproduct of the phenotype you push within the herd."

As he graduates from Oklahoma State University (OSU) with a degree in agribusiness, Hinrichsen aims to attend law school with a focus on agricultural law. He plans to provide counsel for farmers and ranchers alike to ensure they understand what their rights are.

Clearly, Hinrichsen's passion and dedication to the Angus breed did not go unnoticed. To receive the coveted Junior Herdsman award,



Hinrichsen plans to continue building his family's Angus operation.

members must be in their last year of eligibility exhibiting at NJAS. Junior members vote for who they feel exhibited hard work and dedication to their animals while also being willing to lend a helping hand to fellow members as needed.

Hinrichsen leaves juniors with this piece of advice, "Stay humble and work hard. Never stop pushing for greatness. No matter what you win, what success you have, what downfalls you have, there's always more you can do." **AJ**