

# YOUR VIEW

by Eva Hinrichsen, Miss American Angus



## What's Next?

*What comes next? I honestly have no idea. Nobody knows. We cannot predict the future, but we can prepare ourselves to the best of our ability to be ready for whatever comes our way.*

Everyone has goals and dreams and thinks when those goals are accomplished, they have reached the next step. Then what? Another goal is set and the cycle continues in life.

Being a part of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) teaches young cattlemen and women to develop different goals, push themselves to go out of their comfort zone and accomplish something new.

One day maybe an Angus junior will cure cancer.

One day maybe an Angus junior will make a genetic breakthrough and advance the breed even further.

For now, Angus juniors are figuring out their next step as they hang up their green jacket for the last time, set their crown down for the last time or take that final circle around the ring.

### Unmatched opportunity

Growing up in the agricultural industry allows kids to develop a set of unmatched skills compared to those who do not have the same opportunity. This reminds me of the very first speech I wrote for my first National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) when I was 10 years old. I can sum up what the NJAA has taught me the most in one word: responsibility.

Each letter of this word represents a skill or characteristic of who the NJAA shapes kids into.

**R** – *Respect for others is taught to juniors inside and outside of the show ring.*

**E** – *Ethics teach us to be truthful and honest in what we do.*

**S** – *Skills we have learned raising cattle include patience, integrity and independence.*

**P** – *Perseverance teaches us to try over and over again until we get it just right.*

**O** – *Obstacles are prevalent in the agricultural industry, but we have learned how to overcome those challenges.*

**N** – *Never give up when you are presented with several challenges or tough decisions.*

**S** – *Sales/marketing has taught us to sell our cattle to future buyers.*

**I** – *Ingenuity allows us to be able to find a creative answer to an impossible task.*

**B** – *Be patient because sometimes it takes a long time to see the results you have been striving for.*

**I** – *Integrity taught us to do the right thing even when others make bad decisions.*

**L** – *Listen, Learn, Love: We must*

*listen to those with greater knowledge, learn from our mistakes and possess a love for Angus cattle.*

**I** – *Independence. Growing up in the beef industry gives us the opportunity to be independent, since we learn to work hard at a young age.*

**T** – *Trust. Our animals trust us to take care of them, and others will trust you based on your ethics and honesty.*

**Y** – *Youth leadership programs give us endless opportunities to hone our leadership skills and network with industry professionals.*

### Opening doors

Responsibility opens doors for any Angus junior's future, and we can take these skills into the workforce and become successful. Who knew 10-year-old me would write a speech that would summarize my Angus junior career several years later? This proves we cannot predict the future, and we really do not know what is next, but I do know the NJAA has prepared us to be ready for whatever our next step may be. **A**