

AUXILIARY NOTES

by Pam Velisek, President, American Angus Auxiliary

Making It

I have attended the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) for more years than I care to remember, and it never fails that I leave the show inspired.


I am always impressed with the quality of the cattle that are shown, in awe of the American Angus Association staff and volunteers who make it run so seamlessly. I'm also touched by the atmosphere of family that is always apparent between exhibitors, parents and staff.

I'm amazed each time in the number of contests they pack into this whirlwind of a week to not only challenge, but also to entertain the contestants and their families. Yet each year I have been most touched by the quality of the young people I have the privilege to meet, see again and interact with for the best week of summer.

No other organization offers as many opportunities to excel in leadership and life skills that allow a young person to grow confident, competent and capable enough to be ready to take the next step in their lives. So many of the contests encourage teamwork and cooperation between juniors and adults alike, and that is a characteristic that will be useful for one's entire life.

The writing, graphic design, photography and poster contests encourage creativity, while the career development contest helps them hone their job-seeking skills. Each of the contests are great on their own, but collectively they are a road map to success.

Still one of the most influential character- and community-building programs of the week is the mentoring program. I'm never sure who gets the most out of this program, but I'm sure it brings many Angus families together and makes lifelong friends.

If you need to restore your faith in the younger generation, attend NJAS. There will be no doubt in your mind that these young people will make it in life. They are all extraordinary in their own right. 



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