

CATTLE CULTURE

by Lindsay King, assistant editor

The Packers

Raising cattle is a tender-hearted process, one that very few hands get their fingers on. It might be surprising that the only difference between the cattlemen and the packer is the number of hands needed to make the world go around.

Putting a face to a name is a long-standing mode of action for agricultural advocacy. It's beyond time to put a name to one of the many faces bringing home the beef.

The people of a packing plant are as unique as each cut of beef they fabricate. One of those people happens to have strong ties to the Business Breed.

"Growing up on a purebred Angus operation, I became intrigued by the impact our genetics had on the finished product," says Scott Pohlman, plant manager for Cargill in Friona, Texas. "While studying animal science at Texas Tech, I competed on the meat judging team which led to two internships in the meat industry."

Pohlman interned for the *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) brand and what

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is now known as Tyson. While completing his master's degree in meat science at the University of Wyoming (UW), Pohlman managed the meat packing plant at the college.

Cargill: The catalyst

Pohlman started with Cargill in their college associate training program in 2003.

"I took on more responsibilities through roles in various portions of the beef processing business,"

Pohlman says.

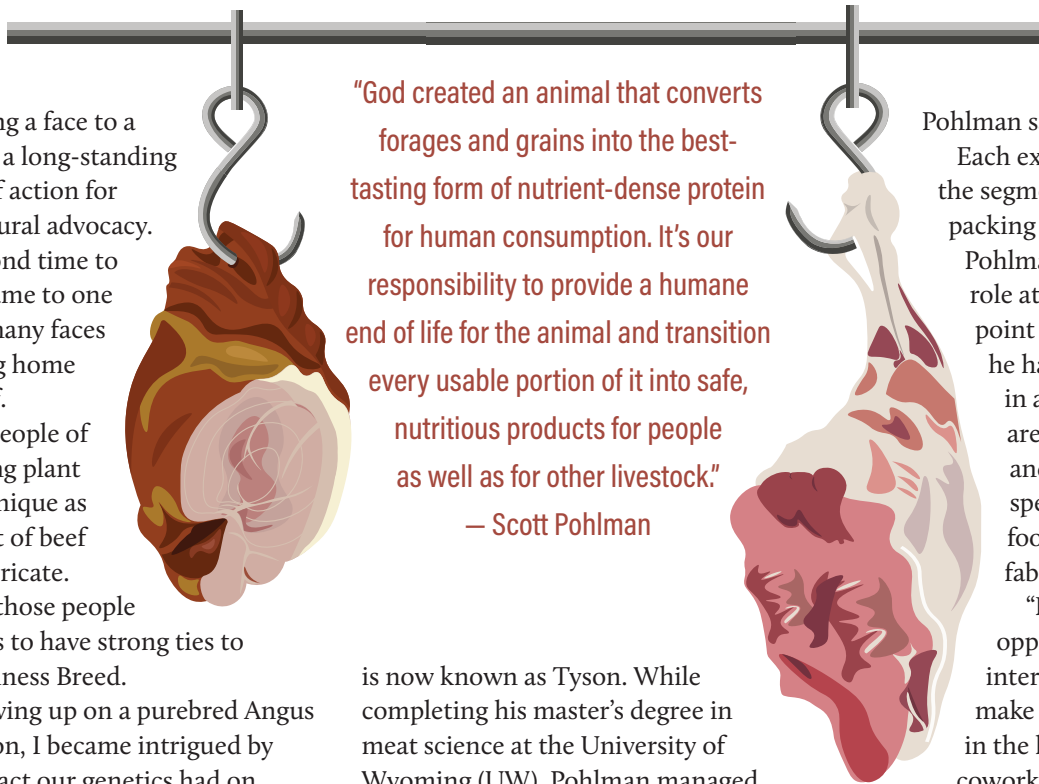
Each experience on the segments of the packing process prepared Pohlman for his current role at Cargill. At one point or another he has led teams in almost every area, from harvest and product specification to food safety and fabrication.

"I enjoy the opportunity to interact with and make a difference in the lives of my coworkers," he says.

"I also enjoy working with our customers to create value and meet their needs."

Thanks to his lifetime on a cattle operation, Pohlman can attest that the packer appreciates the care going into raising these animals.

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best-tasting form of nutrient-dense protein for human consumption,” he says. “It’s our responsibility to provide a humane end of life for that animal and transition every usable portion of it into safe, nutritious products for people as well as for other livestock.”

Friendly Friona, Texas

With more than 2,200 team members at the Friona plant, employee morale is just as important as safety standards.

“We are blessed at this location to have a great team of people that are friendly, care about each other and are dedicated to their role in getting the job done right,” Pohlman says. “It requires the vast diversity we

have in the way of age, background, education, ethnicity, experiences, skill and training to be successful.”

Many of the Cargill employees have been at the Friona location for several decades and counting, one employee started just a couple months after the plant opened. The plant itself is only 51 years old.

It’s safe to say that the Friona packing plant is not only an ideal place to make a living; many choose to make a life there, too. **AJ**

Editor’s note: For an inside look at what it takes to convert a 1,400 pound (lb.) animal to an edible by-product, turn to page 40.



Scott Pohlman

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8:00 A.M. - Angus Junior Heifer Show
3:30 P.M. - Denim & Diamonds Sale Display • 6:00 P.M. - Denim & Diamonds Sale

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16:
9:00 A.M. - Angus Bull ROV Show
11:30 A.M. - Angus Bull Sale Parade (Stadium Arena) • 2:00 p.m. - Angus Bull Sale
****The Angus Bull Sale is now in the Beef Palace Auction Arena****

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17:
8:00 A.M. - Angus Female ROV Show
2:30 P.M. - Colorado Angus Assn. Foundation Female Sale - In The Yards

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18:
8:00 A.M. - Angus Bull & Heifer Pen/Carload Shows - In The Yards

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