

by Julie Mais
Editor



A tug-of-war

I'm a proponent of traditions, and growing up in a farm family from rural Missouri, we have many of our own I adore.

Our Labor Day weekend plans never included a pontoon boat on a lake or big family cookouts to say “so long” to summer. Instead, we’d load up our show heifers — and a few lambs of my sister’s — and drive south about 20 miles to Chilhowee, Mo., population 300.

Following a summer of competitive livestock shows, the annual Chilhowee Fair’s laid-back approach was a welcomed event for our family. The small livestock barn is in town, and the block in front shuts down. The street becomes the show ring, and the concrete loading dock to a building becomes the spectator seats.

Once the show is complete and the animals are bedded down with water and fans, the exhibitors head to Main Street to watch the parade and eat lunch at the local Baptist church.

The highlights of the afternoon, however, are the games. I come from a competitive lot who also enjoy the fun of it. My siblings, cousins, aunts and uncles often won contests like egg toss, Hula Hoop®, sheep dressing and turtle racing. One of my favorites was the tug-of-war.

The tradition each year is for the announcer to invite country kids

to one side and town folk to the other. I’d line up as instructed with my fellow country dwellers. While I didn’t know all the people on my team, we were pulling in the same direction. We had the same goal, and we gave it all we had until a winner was declared — the country kids every year.

Better together

Cooperation capitalizes on the collective’s strength. A group of hardworking, knowledgeable Angus breeders who have a common goal — to meet the needs of their customers and consumers — are a force to be reckoned with. Those who make up *The Business Breed* are industry leaders for a reason.


This month’s *Angus Journal* focuses on how Angus breeders are “Better Together,” and how understanding and respect for all aspects of the industry, from ranch to plate, only benefit the breed.

In this issue we truly offer an insight to all segments. Celebrate alongside Certified Angus Beef’s 2023 Commitment to Excellence award winners and be sure to scan the QR code with each story to hear directly from the recipients.

Speakers at the recent Feeding Quality Forum share their insights on volatility, high prices and expectations in the industry.

Five American Angus Association members announce their candidacies for reelection to the Board of Directors and share about themselves and their goals for the breed. We give you tips on capturing the best photos of your cattle with the least amount of stress, and offer even more National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) coverage.

We wrap up this edition with news on the latest Angus Foundation heifer package and how young Angus breeders are learning about leadership.

With the upcoming Angus Convention and preparations for a new year underway, let’s consider how being on the same team and pulling in the same direction can offer a roadmap to Angus success. 

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie".

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