THE FRONT GATE

by Allen Moczygemba CEO, American Angus Association



The story behind the steak

As most folks realize, it's a different world today when it comes to business. It's no longer just about producing the best product at the best value. While providing value at the right price still drives consumer behavior, so does the story behind how a product is produced.

Let's use Certified Angus Beef[®] (CAB[®]) as an example. The hundreds of thousands of consumers who purchase CAB products each week, whether it be at their local grocery store or when dining out, have expectations on how CAB and its stakeholders conducted themselves and the manner in which the product they're consuming was produced.

Simply put, today's consumers want to be informed. They want to know where a calf was raised, who raised it, what it was fed and how it was handled. They really do want to know the story behind the steak or hamburger they're about to enjoy. I think that's a good thing because we have a terrific story to tell. It's important we tell it now and not let others, such as competing branded beef programs, tell our story for us.

That's why, after almost three years of efforts, we're pleased to announce our Belief Statement, which is our story. Titled "Raising Standards," it's built upon four key pillars: proper cattle care, empowering the next generation of beef producers, supporting our local communities, and our commitment to stewardship of our natural resources.

Cattle Care

We believe that care and respect for cattle are not just responsibilities, but fundamental to the values of ranchers and others throughout the beef community. Caring properly for cattle is a time-honored commitment woven into ranchers' daily lives. We expect and encourage all members of the beef community to uphold the highest level of care for their animals.

Next Generation

We believe that empowering and educating the next generation paves the way for continued excellence across the beef community. Connecting tomorrow's pioneers and today's leaders will allow the beef community to grow, thrive and remain relevant into the future. Young ranchers and beef professionals will be the ones to preserve a treasured way of life; and young chefs will showcase beef in new, creative ways.

Community

We believe that caring for and supporting our community on every level starts by encouraging our own team members to work within their families, neighborhoods and communities in ways that are meaningful to them. Working together, we are better able to help others across the larger brand and beef communities support their own missions, and achieve goals much more effectively than would be possible alone.

Environment

We believe that resources should be used mindfully; and everyone can contribute to positive change and a brighter future through simple, everyday choices. In the beef community, it's our privilege and responsibility to take good care of the land on which our livelihoods and community rely.

While our Belief Statement may sound new, those four pillars represent what we do every day as an industry, as a breed and as an Association. It's important we share our way of life and our standards with others, because "raising standards" is what we've always done. We're Angus, and we'll continue to set standards that protect and drive our leading market position to ensure a prosperous future for the entire Angus family.

All Maypute

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