

YOUR VIEW

by Ellie Kidwell, Miss American Angus



The results of hard work

One thing all agriculturalists have in common is the drive to produce the food and products the world uses every day.

Agriculturalists work hard day in and day out to grow their products with the end goal of making a living in mind. Whether it is cucumbers, corn, cattle or any other number of things, all agriculturalists have one goal in mind: to reap the fruits of their labor.

For generations, agriculturalists have had to work harder and harder to continue producing despite challenges like tightening restrictions and the world's growing population. Even then, the reality for many producers is small profit margins, which pushes agricultural production to grow bigger and bigger to compensate.

When it comes down to it, agriculturalists are passionate about what they do. That is why they continue to do it despite the many obstacles they face.

Cattlemen are no strangers to the hard work and continual effort it takes to reach a paycheck. One might argue cattle producers put the most labor into their end product, because the entire process requires

cattle to go through different hands-on operations along the way. When you look at industries like pork and poultry, the entire process is highly mechanized from start to finish.

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— Ellie Kidwell**

The same cannot be said about the cattle industry. Although many cattle are finished in large-scale feedlots, the process begins with a smaller producer who manages a herd year-round to breed, calve, wean and sell feeder calves to the buyer. Through all of this labor, producers and consumers alike find satisfaction in high-quality beef products.

Likewise, we can see these same agriculturalists putting great effort into the next generation, especially in organizations like our own. Countless hours have been put in to make the Angus industry what it is today, and the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) is certainly part of what makes our industry so special.

As the next generation of producers for the world, we are the fruits of their labor, as the generation

following us will be the fruits of ours.

The labor agriculturalists put in to produce the food the world eats every day is invaluable, but we should not forget about the value of putting time and effort into other areas of our lives. In my life I have always been taught to work hard for what I have, whether in the show barn, my academics, sports or other activities.

The gratifying feeling of long nights in the barn throughout the year finally paying off when you make it into the big arena cannot be beat. The satisfaction when you have studied hours on end and earn an A on the final exam is amazing. The hours spent training for sports and competitions all seem worth it when we can harvest the fruits of our labor. Not to mention the valuable lessons we learn along the way from these activities, which are perhaps the most important fruits of all.

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