

FOUNDATION IN FOCUS

by Thomas Marten
Angus Foundation executive director



Bridging gaps

An important lesson learned from English writer G.K. Chesterton is, “Don’t ever take a fence down until you know the reason it was put up.”

This wise advice serves us well, but sometimes you do need to remove barriers whether it is on the farm or something more philosophical.

Breaking down barriers happens frequently in the Angus breed. Oftentimes, the programs your charitable gifts fund help to crack the shells many young people have as they strike up new friendships and explore their own leadership potential at programs like Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) and Raising the Bar.

Other barriers are benchmarks. Since the creation of the Angus/Talon Youth Educational Learning Program Fund, we’ve encouraged students with animal science scholarships and pushed interns to gain new experiences working alongside cattlemen.

As we enter 2022, we will see a record number of scholarships awarded and interns hosted. More importantly than these bean-counting metrics is the fact more youth will be profoundly impacted.

Making a difference

Each of us has endured some frustrations over the past two years, most recently due to labor shortages. John Mrotek blazed a new trail to establish his family’s scholarship




fund to invest in Angus youth interested in pursuing a worthwhile career in the trades. John’s realization and vision for addressing the skill gap we too often find is making a difference as the first John R. Mrotek Family Technical Education Scholar was named at the 2021 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

Recently, the American Angus Auxiliary and the Angus Foundation created the Ardyce’s Apron Award for the overall junior division winners of the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) Cook-Off. This award honors the life of Ardyce O’Neill who pioneered this great culinary event, inspiring budding chefs and tastebuds alike.

There remain barriers, but perhaps it is better to think of them as mere hurdles to jump over. Through their generosity, Angus Foundation donors bridge gaps and find new and innovative ways to spark curiosity and promote careers for Angus youth, answer questions through research, and provide greater resources for breeders.

As we prepare to celebrate the Christmas season and the conclusion of a more normal year, please consider how you can make a difference for the breed today and tomorrow. Your tax-deductible gifts to grow the Angus Fund ensure programs like LEAD and Raising the Bar are funded. Would you consider making your gift to launch programs into 2022?

To make your impact, visit www.angusfoundation.org and click the “give” button in the top right corner. 

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