



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

There's power in numbers; be 1

As a youth advisor at our church, my husband, Todd, has been able to chaperone a contingent of our youth as they attend the National Youth Gathering. One of the dominant lessons his group and others who have attended brought home was the sheer magnitude of the event — 35,000 youth of the same faith gathered to sing and study and help their fellow man.

Power of fellowship

What a wonderful opportunity it is to show those young adults that they are not alone in their beliefs and to introduce them to youth from all over the country who share the same faith and values. It is wonderful to witness the change in them after the experience. They are more confident, more content, happier to be who they are and more positive about the future.

For a different purpose, of course, the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), as well as each state and local junior Angus event, offers the same opportunity to bring youth and families together who share the same interests. It is again a blessing to see those participants become more confident, more content, happier to be who they are and more positive about the future.

Those junior activities have helped instill

a desire in many to raise their own families with the same opportunities. We have a precious lifestyle — one filmmakers have romanticized and one we fight hard to protect.

For all ages

Gathering together — for fun, for sport, for competition, for study, for acknowledgement — is vital to the survival of the breed and the industry as we know it. As independent as farmers and ranchers tend to be, it's not hard to become a little isolated and to start feeling like a group of one. The diversity of our operations and the distance between can make us feel more than just miles apart.

There are actually a lot of producers in this business, and while different, those producers share a lot of common ground. Every one of them benefits from your participation. Every one of them benefits

from your experience, your ideas and your aspirations — just as you can benefit from theirs.

You may not be able to use the grasses that someone from across the country uses, but you may find a solution for dealing with flies or talking to your son or setting up a value-added enterprise. You'll definitely find people with common interests and problems, and the opportunity to bounce ideas off them. And you'll gain greater understanding for things that do not pertain to you other than it pertains to a fellow cattleman and is therefore vital to your success.

Mark your calendar now for the NJAS July 13-19 in Iowa (see page 138), the National Angus Conference & Tour Oct. 7-9 in Oklahoma and other Angus events throughout the summer and fall. Consider attending a regional show near you, a university cattlemen's day or the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) meeting June 30-July 3 (see page 147).

Your neighbor needs you, and we're counting on you.

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