



Foundation Fundamentals

► by **Milford Jenkins**, director of development, Angus Foundation

Raising the bar

Two o'clock the afternoon of Jan. 12, 2006, will always be remembered as a special time and date in the Angus breed's history, as Canyon Creek Angus LLC, owned by Ronald and Myki Simek of Genoa, Nev., and Ben and Lindsey Simek and family of Cody, Wyo., bid a record-setting \$250,000 for the 2006 Angus Foundation Heifer Package at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo., far surpassing the already impressive record of \$101,000 set in 2001.

Generosity abounds

With the Simeks' help and that of contending bidders Shoulderbone Plantation, White Plains, Ga., owned by Robert Lanier; and Fox Run Farms LLC, owned by Bob and Dena Baudendistel — along with the keen interest and spirited bidding by countless other charitable Angus breeders in attendance — the bar has been raised.

The indelible short-term and long-term influence of these inspiring acts of generosity and willingness to invest in the future of the Angus breed is immeasurable. As with any financial support to the Angus Foundation, this influx of funds, purely from a financial standpoint, will significantly help advance the Angus Foundation's goals and objectives for its education, youth and research activities. These advances ultimately benefit,

directly or indirectly, each and every one of us as Angus breeders.

Progressive growth and ongoing expansion of activities and programs, especially for 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charitable organizations like your Angus Foundation, occur as a result of generous

investments, regardless of size, from dedicated, loyal and unselfish supporters and benefactors wanting to make a difference. Your contributions raise the bar — whether it's a \$25, \$50, \$100 or larger gift to the Angus Foundation's Annual Fund each year; establishing a \$10,000-\$100,000 or larger permanently named endowment fund; naming the Angus Foundation as a charitable beneficiary in your estate plans through a bequest; or purchasing the heifer at Denver.

The indelible short-term and long-term influence of these inspiring acts of generosity and willingness to invest in the future of the Angus breed is immeasurable.



But, even more important for us to realize from this humbling, awe-inspiring event at Denver, is the expanding of our minds and imaginations as to what is possible. It is important to realize just what — by working together as progressive and

visionary Angus breeders — we can collectively accomplish and achieve through Angus Foundation

Foundation activities for the benefit of our beloved Angus breed.

Advancing the dream

Indeed, your Angus Foundation has come a long way since its birth in 1980 with the first "foundation heifer" selling at Denver for, at that time, a very generous bid of \$6,000.

Born also was a dream and vision as to the invaluable role that the Angus Foundation could play in serving the education, youth and research needs of the Angus breed and ag industry. We can take comfort in knowing this dream, this vision, is alive and well today, and it will be for many years to come. This is evidenced by the renewed excitement and enthusiasm generated annually by the Angus Foundation Heifer Package offered at the NWSS and the numerous other ways Angus breeders, allied industry interests and friends financially support the Angus Foundation throughout the year.

In closing, our hats are off to Bill and Barb Rishel of Rishel Angus, North Platte, Neb., who donated this year's outstanding heifer; the Simeks for purchasing the heifer; and everyone else who supported the Angus Foundation in this successful fundraising effort. The Angus family will always owe you and all its generous supporters a huge debt of gratitude for raising the bar!

E-MAIL: mjenkins@angus.org