



# Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

## Write your own story

This last weekend, in the rush of coming back to college — after attending a board meeting of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA)— and diving into the first week of Block & Bridle and Collegiate Beef Team meetings, I decided I needed to sit down and let myself catch up. In the following week I would start my first set of tests, so before I sat down to study the whole weekend, I was going to watch a movie — “Return to Lonesome Dove.”

Every once in a while, a person watches a movie or reads a book or hears something that grabs him or her by the heart. Good, bad or indifferent, it provokes the very soul of a being and reminds us that it is there. It inspires a person.

I, myself, am a fan of a good western. And, no good western is without gun fighting, horses, cattle, a hero and a villain. But, great movies are also not without relationships, obstacles or happy endings. Great movies offer opportunity to be continued with a sequel.

Lives are a lot like movies. I couldn't shake that thought from my mind after I finished

watching “Return to Lonesome Dove.” There are no great lives that have been absent of relationships, obstacles or accomplishments. There are no great lives without a story. You don't have to search for love or obstacles or accomplishments; they do pretty well finding you. You can, however, write your own story.

You write your own story without knowing it. You do this by the way you face obstacles, how you build relationships and how you pursue accomplishments. Obstacles drive adventures and happy endings, and there are no romances without relationships.

In writing this, I wanted to challenge you to seek your legacy and write your own story. I mentioned that no great movie is without opportunity for a sequel — or maybe a prequel. You are never too old to chase your dreams, and you are never too young to instill your legacy in those around you. Life is a journey with no beginning and no end. When you go through the day, think about what kind of story you are writing and who is reading it.

—Heath McPherson, North Carolina



Heath McPherson

## ► Florida Angus Ass'n Field Day, Fanning Springs, May 14

► Roy Petteway, Zolfo Springs, received the 2005 Florida Angus Ass'n scholarship.



## ► Utah State Fair Angus Show, Salt Lake City, Sept. 13

► Cortney Woolsey, Morgan, was crowned Utah Angus Queen.



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