

Donors Make Dreams a Reality

An Angus Foundation scholarship recipient speaks on how donor dollars have helped her reach her educational goals and find success.

by **Katie Allen**, Angus Foundation

When sitting next to a person on an airplane, Britney Creamer uses the opportunity to get to know the stranger by telling him or her about her passion — showing Angus cattle. Most of the time, the stranger she visits with has no knowledge of agriculture, showing livestock or raising Angus cattle, but she is always ready to share her story.

Creamer, a Montrose, Colo., native, is a third-generation Angus breeder. She and her parents Kathi and Jeff, along with her older brother Brandon, own and operate Lazy JB Angus in Montrose, an operation started by Kathi's father, Richard, who, as a teenager, asked for and received a black Angus heifer for Christmas.

"I was born and raised in the Angus industry," Creamer says. "It's something that I'm very fond of and I'm very proud to be a part of."

At the 2011 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in Harrisburg, Pa., Creamer was one of five graduate student scholarship recipients who received \$5,000 from the Angus Foundation. In total, the Angus

Foundation presented more than \$210,000 in scholarships in 2011. The deadline to apply for 2012 Angus Foundation scholarships is May 1.

Creamer is currently pursuing a master's degree in agriculture, with a focus on international agriculture, at Oklahoma State University (OSU) in Stillwater. She also completed her bachelor's degree at OSU in agricultural economics with an international marketing option and minor in Spanish. Creamer's graduate student scholarship was the fourth scholarship she received from the Angus Foundation. She was also awarded three undergraduate scholarships during her college tenure.

"The funding has been tremendous. It's enabled me to take out less in student loans," Creamer says. "I know a lot of people think it is just about donating money (to the Angus Foundation), but it's really not. It's about

the kids. It's about making dreams a reality. That's what I'm thankful for most."

Providing youth opportunities

Aside from receiving scholarships, Creamer has also witnessed the Angus Foundation's support in other areas. She has attended various conferences and events supported by the Angus Foundation, including the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) and Raising the Bar conferences.

Creamer also served as chairman of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA)

Board of Directors in 2011. Serving on the junior board and receiving scholarship support from the Angus Foundation is something her

brother, Brandon, was also able to take part in during his time in the NJAA.

"I've had the opportunity to work a lot with the Angus Foundation, and being chairman of the junior board, I know that we couldn't do the things that we do without the Angus Foundation," Creamer says. "And it's not just within the junior board. All juniors, all opportunities they're given, are mainly because of the Angus Foundation."

Creamer says she has also noticed that the Angus Foundation is always open to new ideas for opportunities to support education, youth and research. In looking at all that the Angus Foundation supports, Creamer says donors should know that every dollar they give produces amazing results.

"As a junior, I hope all of our donors

realize how grateful we are for everything they've given to the Angus Foundation, as well as our National Junior Angus Association," Creamer says. "I think the Angus industry is one that people such as myself who have gone through the junior program can look back and see how, in every aspect, it has affected their lives. It means a lot to kids when they look back on their junior experiences."



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Invest in your future

As Creamer continues her graduate work, she is excited for what the future has in store. A portion of her graduate program will allow her to participate in an internship abroad, and she hopes to travel to either Argentina or Brazil to study the important cattle marketing strategies in those countries.

When she thinks about all that the Angus breed has given to her, she not only wants to share her story with that stranger sitting next to her on the airplane, she also wants to share her story with fellow Angus breeders who have made many of her great experiences possible.

“I wouldn’t be able to have done the things that I’ve done within my education and gone the places I’ve gone without the support of the Angus Foundation,” Creamer says. “I’ve been allowed to participate in things I normally wouldn’t have been able to, because I took the time to participate in junior programs and be active and fill out the scholarships that were available to me. I hope that all juniors out there realize that maybe the hour or two that it takes to fill out the scholarship application is well worth it in the end.”

More information about the Angus Foundation scholarships and the application

can be found at www.angusfoundation.org.

Information about all named scholarship endowments are also included on the website. If you want to find out more information about how your name and/or farm or ranch name can be carried on in perpetuity through a permanent scholarship endowment, contact Angus Foundation President Milford Jenkins at 816-383-5100 or mjenkins@angusfoundation.org.



Editor’s Note: *Katie Allen is marketing and public relations assistant for the Angus Foundation.*