



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Each one teach one

When I graduated from college, the recommendation was to have an internship under your belt or at least to have worked for someone to gain experience before going out into the world to seek your career. Today, it's not uncommon for students to seek an internship each summer while getting their college degree or, even more trendy, their college degrees.

Value of internships

Multiple internships allow the individual to try on different roles. For instance, an ag communications major might seek internships to explore what it would be like to work at a magazine one summer, to work for an agency the next and for a member organization the next. These internships provide invaluable opportunities for the intern to learn about him- or herself while experiencing a glimpse of what life would be like in a chosen career field.

For the host, internships provide the opportunity to meet a young person who is potentially coming into the career field. Down deep, we hope we're training someone who will come back to us for a full-time job after completing a degree inspired by what they learned during their 10-12 weeks onboard. Just as important, though, is learning if the career field isn't right for a person before we both sign on for

a long-term working relationship that will be unsatisfying.

We definitely seek to expose our interns to as many aspects of the career field as we can to help them discover their passion, to give them confidence through experience, and to refine in their own minds where they will excel while being effective, productive and content.

A new level

This summer we had the opportunity to hire a young lady who had already graduated from college and was looking for an opportunity to learn everything she could about the *Angus Journal* with the intent of going back home to freelance for us and other publications. It cast a whole new light on how we approached the summer. The result was a more-focused experience that will benefit her and the *Angus Journal* for the long haul. We're

actually adding Paige Nelson to our list of field editors this month.

You could almost call her experience more of an apprenticeship than an internship. Remember those? An apprenticeship is a longer commitment than an internship, and it is typically focused on someone who knows what they want to do and seeks to learn the craft or the trade in detail by working for a master craftsman.

Boy, do we need apprentices in production agriculture. In school, you can learn a lot about agriculture and the social, economic and humanitarian environment in which farmers and ranchers conduct their businesses. You can learn about nutrition, pasture management, genomics, etc., in as much detail as you desire. It is valuable, but it is not the same as learning the nuances of working with cattle day in and day out with a master stockman, whether that is Mom and Dad, Uncle Joe or a neighbor.

I hope you'll take to heart Jim Kopriva's view on fostering the next generation of young farmers and ranchers into the business (see page 48). The article is the kickoff to our Youth Development series, focusing on one of the "35 Keys to Success" we are exploring this year as we celebrate 35 years under the ownership of the American Angus Association. Do you have an opportunity to provide a young person or family experiences in a purebred beef cattle operation through an internship or an apprenticeship?

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