



Movin' Forward

► by **Bryce Schumann**, CEO, American Angus Association

New year, new show

The 2012 National Western Stock Show (NWSS) greeted its Angus visitors with typically unpredictable Colorado weather, varying from warm, sunny days to nearly whiteout conditions. But the unpredictable weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm for the Angus breed, and the excitement that pervaded all of the events about the future of the Angus business.

History and hope

As I made my way to the show complex, I couldn't help but think of the thousands of people who traveled to this same arena during the last 106 years.

- An exhibitor with distant hopes of grand or reserve.
- A mother cheering on her aspiring young cattleman in the junior show.
- A fitter rising before dawn in hopes of a win.

So many have left their farms and ranches to come to the stock show grounds, and for good reason. Beginning in the early 1900s, ranchhands rode into Denver on the rails with their showstrings. The Yards were teeming with cattle, and people crowded into the alleyways in their overcoats and hats.

Today's scene is slightly different. There are many more Angus cattle here than when I

first started coming to Denver 30 years ago, and the blackening of the Yards is a signal of even larger changes that have taken place in pastures across the country.

In the same way the stockyards represent an important chapter in the history of the beef business, all those Angus cattle — and Angus people — stand as an important symbol of our future.

A generous spirit

Exhibitors entered approximately 400 open and 205 junior Angus cattle in the 2012 NWSS. Once again, the quality genetics presented at the show were hard to beat. So, too, was the generosity of Angus enthusiasts present at Angus Foundation events.

Curtis and Ann Long of Briarwood Angus Farm, Butler, Mo., purchased the 2012 Angus Foundation Heifer Package for \$65,000.

Eddie and Connie Sydenstricker of Sydenstricker Genetics, Mexico, Mo., donated the cow-calf pair, with proceeds benefiting the Angus Foundation's many education, youth and research initiatives.

In addition, more than 500 Angus attendees traveled to Tom and Lois Ames' Spruce Mountain Ranch, Larkspur, Colo., for "Angus Night on the Mountain." The successful event raised more than \$45,000 for the Foundation and the 2012 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

I'm always amazed at the many Angus breeders and families who commit so much of themselves to the success of the Angus breed and future generations. Thank you for your generous contributions and your continued commitment to the Angus Foundation.

Carry it forward

As we roll into the spring bull sales season, take a few minutes to think about the success of the 2012 NWSS. If you weren't there, I would sum it up this way: It was an event that showcased the enthusiasm and momentum that this breed has achieved. And it was an event that celebrated our connections with the past, allowing us to retrace our footsteps into how and why we got here.

Most of all, it was an event that reinvigorated our commitment to our families and friends, and our passion for a great breed of cattle.

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