

Hymels Named Advisors of the Year

Louisiana Junior Angus Association volunteers honored as 2012 Advisors of the Year.

by *Ellie Hoffschneider, American Angus Association*

At the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), it is impossible to miss the distinct smells of Cajun cooking coming from the Louisiana Junior Angus Association (LJAA) stalls. These smells are the result of Patti Hymel's culinary skills, but she and her husband, Eddie, provide much more than just good food to Angus youth.

For nine years, the couple has enthusiastically served as advisors for the LJAA. To honor their commitment, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) is recognizing the Hymels with the 2012 Advisors of the Year award.

"I have been a junior for 10 years and have seen the Hymels' zeal to make the LJAA and Louisiana Angus Association (LAA) better," says Daniel McFarland, LJAA member. "They have inspired me to continue in the Angus Association."

Even before they served as advisors, the Hymels oversaw the development and distribution of the *Louisiana Angus Newsletter*, a project that has brought the LJAA and LAA closer together. The couple also coordinates advertising sales for the state directory, and plans for the junior banquet and show.

Perhaps the Hymels' truest test of Angus commitment was hosting the 2011 Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show. The couple volunteered countless hours preparing for the event. They coordinated committees, oversaw fundraising and encouraged Louisiana juniors to get involved. Patti also took the time to write a grant that contributed \$10,000 toward the show. Their hard work paid off with a successful show,

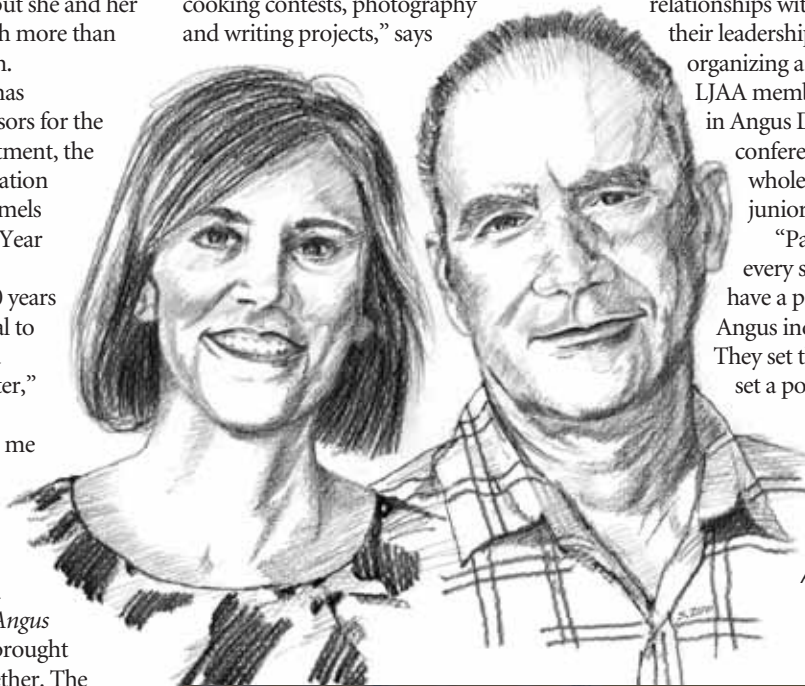
and the couple continues to support juniors in and out of the showing.

"The Hymels encourage the LJAA members to do more than just show cattle. They push the members to be involved in the cooking contests, photography and writing projects," says

Gail Jones, LJAA parent. "The track record for LJAA in the cooking contests in this state is impressive."

Above all, the couple wants Louisiana juniors, their children included, to build relationships with each other and grow in their leadership abilities. Whether it is organizing a Cook-Off team or driving LJAA members to the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference, the couple is wholeheartedly working for juniors.

"Patti and Eddie see the best in every situation," Jones says. "They have a passion for Angus cattle, the Angus industry and Angus people. They set the bar high for character and set a positive example."



Editor's Note: *Ellie Hoffschneider is public relations and communications intern for the American Angus Association.*

► **Right:** Louisiana Junior Angus Association members presented flowers to advisors Eddie and Patti Hymel, who were honored during the owned heifer show at NJAS.



PHOTO BY KASEY MILLER