

# Foundation Inducts Supporters

John and Judy Crouch, Ron and Myki Simek honored for dedication, generosity to the American Angus Association.

by *Jamie May*

Each year the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) selects exceptional supporters of the Angus industry to join the Honorary Angus Foundation. The Angus Foundation strives to open the doors of opportunity for young Angus enthusiasts and provide funding for education, youth and research. Inductees are those who have shown incomparable dedication to the NJAA. This year, the Angus Foundation inducts John and Judy Crouch of Taos, N.M., and Ron and Myki Simek, Canyon Creek Farms LLC, Genoa, Nev., and Cody, Wyo.

## John and Judy Crouch

A lifespan of dedication, support and service to the Angus breed not only qualifies John and Judy Crouch as friends of the American Angus Association, it qualifies them as lifetime members of the Angus family. To honor their commitment to the Association and to the NJAA, John and Judy were inducted into the Honorary Angus Foundation at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) July 19-25 in Perry, Ga.

“John and Judy are great additions to the Honorary Angus Foundation,” says Brandon Creamer, vice chairman for the NJAA Board. “John spent over 30 years building the Association to what it is today; he pioneered programs that led Angus to the top of the beef industry.”

John Crouch retired last year after serving as CEO of the American Angus Association. He oversaw the world’s largest beef breed registry and was a prominent force behind the development of its leading performance database.

John spent 34 years within the

Association, starting first as regional manager for Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina. He later progressed to director of performance programs and eventually to CEO.

John’s service to the Angus industry is immeasurable, but the couple’s loyalty to youth programs is equally as impressive.

Walt Stinson, a fellow Tennessee native and communications director for the NJAA Board, says, “During his time as CEO, John stepped up to take the reigns to lead the Angus breed to new heights. The junior program was always a priority of his, as evidenced [by] the growth of the Angus Foundation — the financial enabler of the NJAA — under his leadership.”

Junior Board members explain that John and Judy have often served as symbols of the leaders they want to represent. The couple’s charisma, warmth and diplomacy are just a few of the characteristics these future leaders try to emulate.

“John and Judy are everyone’s friend. They take the time to say ‘hi’ to everyone, no matter their age or who they are. Those small things say a great deal about the both of them,” Creamer explains.

John Crouch served as a leader for the largest beef cattle breed association in the United States, but he and Judy never forgot the youth who were the building blocks of the industry’s future. Their dedication to the Angus industry will have a lasting effect on future generations.

## Ron and Myki Simek

Ron and Myki Simek have likewise played an important part in the lives of junior Angus members through their innumerable acts of generosity. Their understanding of the NJAA and its significance to the future of the beef industry is a driving factor behind their significant donations to the Angus Foundation.

“Ron and Myki are two individuals who are truly unselfish in character,” says Mallory Trospen, chairman of the NJAA Board. “Their support of the junior association through donations to the Angus Foundation, hosting the junior board at their Cody, Wyoming, ranch, and their encouragement of junior programs are examples of their sincere efforts to better the NJAA and the Angus breed.”

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— *Trey Davis*

“You don’t meet many people in the world who are willing to do what Ron and Myki have done for this Association,” says Trey Davis, Angus Foundation director for the NJAA Board. “The Simeks are a couple that doesn’t hold back. They put forth 110% in everything they do.”

While the Simeks are newcomers to the Angus breed, they are not strangers to the cattle business or the support required to foster future industry leaders.

Since Canyon Creek Angus LLC entered the industry in 1992, the Simeks have made significant financial contributions to the Angus Foundation. Their most notable contributions have been as repeat purchasers of the Angus Foundation Heifer Package.

The Angus Foundation Heifer program was designed in 1980 as a fundraiser for the NJAA and the American Angus Association. Sold annually at the National Western Stock Show (NWSS) in Denver, Colo., the Foundation Heifer program has been a huge success.

The Simeks set an astounding record in 2006, purchasing the Foundation Heifer for \$250,000. Their charity continued in 2009 with their second purchase for \$92,500.

“The NJAA and its junior board of directors are truly grateful to have individuals like the Simeks involved in the Angus breed. Simply saying thank you is insufficient for their endless acts of generosity. Ron and Myki, you have made an impact larger than you may ever know,” Trospen states.

The Simeks are an example of the character and determination of the many families within the American Angus Association. Trospen says their inspiring generosity and dedication are making an impact on the NJAA in immeasurable ways.



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