



Next Generation

► Postcard from an NJAA director and state spotlights

Make a resolution

“The great difference between the real leader and the pretender is that the one sees into the future, while the other regards only the present; the one lives by the day, and acts upon expediency; the other acts on enduring principles and for the immortality.”

— Edmund Burke

Stick to it

It's about that time of year once again, when we all start to make up ridiculous New Year's resolutions in order to make ourselves feel like better people. I know

that I make up resolutions to better myself as a person, whether it is physically, scholastically or just personally. One example would be when I told myself, “This year, I'm going to work out every day.” Two

weeks after the first of the year, I still hadn't made it to the gym.

Then I told myself, “Well, maybe just three times a week, starting next week.” I started to put off things that I wanted to do for myself because I got busy with other parts of my life.

I realize it was just a New Year's resolution, but it started me thinking, if I



Bridgett Driscoll

2008 National Junior Angus Show Contest Winner

Intermediate Division Prepared Public Speaking, ages 14-15

An Angus Tale

by Hannah Wright, Spring City, Tenn.

“Marley was dead: to begin with. This is no doubt whatever about that,” is the first line from the classic story *A Christmas Carol*, by Charles Dickens. The story is based on the character Ebenezer Scrooge as he recalls his past, present and future with the help of three spirits — all in an effort to highlight social injustice and poverty.

In keeping with the theme, “Christmas in July,” I could not resist my own adaptation of “A Christmas Carol” using it to highlight the Angus breed. You will be visited not by three spirits but one very spirited Angus enthusiast, me.

The past

The Angus breed was alive to begin with. Our past, as it were, began on the northwestern part of Scotland in two counties, or shires, that touched the North Sea — Angus and Aberdeen. Noted for the naturally polled or dodded cattle, historians believe that the breed sprang from the aboriginal cattle of the country and that the cattle are indigenous to the districts where they are still found.

Considered to be the founder of the breed, Hugh Watson, of Scotland, set out to breed black, dodded cattle. Two famous names come to mind. Old Jack, who was awarded the number 1 in the Scotch Herd book, was bred in 1842. The other foundation animal was Old Granny. She was calved in 1824

and produced 24 calves, of which 11 were registered in the herd book. She was 35 years old and died after being struck by lightning. Talk about a “pathfinder” cow.

As Aberdeen Angus grew in prominence in the United Kingdom, Sir George Grant sailed for America with four Angus bulls. He settled in the Kansas colony now called Victoria. The year was 1873. Interestingly, two of the bulls were exhibited at the Kansas City Livestock Expo. Because of their black hides and their polled heads, they were called “freaks” and were ridiculed and scorned.

These four “freaks” made a lasting impression on the U.S. cattle industry. Mr. Grant, a true visionary, crossed the black bulls with native Texas Longhorns. This cross proved successful, as this cross survived very favorably on the winter range and weighed more the next spring. Mr. Grant died in 1878, not able to see the explosion of Angus cattle in America.

Between 1878 and 1883, more than 1,200 head of cattle were exported from Scotland to the States, with the American Angus Association being chartered in 1883. Many men, women and cattle continued our timeline.

The first herd book came off the press in June 1886. The herd book was “the bible” for cattle breeding. Herd books were issued on a regular basis until 1962, when Association records were computerized.

As early as 1888, under the direction of Thomas McFarlane, the American Angus Association began recording and publishing show records. Blackcap Poe 205921 was the highest-priced bull to date in 1918; he brought \$9,200.

American breeders were then introduced to the *Aberdeen-Angus Journal* in 1919 by founder Fred Hahne.

In these early formidable years, men spent a good deal of their time strengthening the tie between Angus and youth cattle enthusiasts. In some ways it was the Association's first junior activities program.

In 1920, registrations reached 24,000. The average price of Angus sold at auction went from \$134 per head to \$705 per head in 1920.

The agricultural recession that hit in 1921 brought most of these programs to an end, wiping out the Association's monies. Even with an almost split in the Association with the efforts of proxy voting to install a democratic representative form of government, the state associations were growing.

As a multigenerational Angus breeder, I listen to the history of Angus cattle firsthand. My father's eyes twinkle as he recalls stories from his youth.

Stories told by two older men at the time reflect on times past. Young men sent to exhibit cattle all over the United States, Wayland “Pappy” Crouch and T.J. Cawood would load their cattle at the train depot, sleep day and night in the box cars with the cattle, to arrive at their destination to show those animals with pride and promote the

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put off New Year's resolutions, what else will I put off?

So, I decided this year I'm going to make a resolution I can stick to. I'm going to make a resolution that will make a difference. This year I'm going to be the best leader I can be. I'm going to spend my last few months on the National Junior Angus Board of Directors reaching out to juniors from across the country, hoping to have an effect on a few of them.

The ability to lead is something that deep down each one of us possesses. Leaders do not have to be the leader of a club, group or association; they can be leaders because they lead by example. Leaders take the time to reach out to others to make each person in the group feel welcome and needed. As National Junior Angus Association members, you all can be leaders in your schools, communities and even your state associations.

My challenge for each of you this New Year is to make a resolution that you can stick to. Make a resolution to be a leader in at least one activity in which you are involved, no matter what it might be. Do something so that when you look back at 2009 you can say, "This year, I really made a difference!"

— **Bridgett Driscoll, Iowa**

breed. These names may not be significant to you; but, in East Tennessee they are founding fathers — promoting one of the oldest Association breed shows and one of the first to put an emphasis on performance testing. Some of you may recognize the name Crouch; he was the father to former CEO (chief executive officer) of the Association, John Crouch.

From the boom years following World War I through the disastrous recession and depression years of the 1920s and 1930s and learning to control dwarfism in the 1950s, the Association has grown. Names of great bulls like Prince Eric of Sunbeam, Earl Marshall Pride 1980, Band 104, 9J9, Emulation 31, Precision 1680, Bando 155, Rito, Scotch Cap and Pine Drive Big Sky have made their impacts on the breed.

As the light dims and their faces fade, we realize that without a strong past we could not enjoy the present.

The present

As we move to the present we highlight the breeder. From the strength of the Angus breed to the Angus Association, one common thread exists, and that thread is the Angus breeder's love of the land and enjoyment of the livestock they raise.

Angus breeders take great pride in their breed and commit to improving it. We have studied performance data; we analyze our markets and glean from experts in the industry. As Angus breeders we have the complete package. The name Angus is the "end-all" word in the cattle breed. We host a well-rounded genetic advantage — improved

calving ease and growth, and inherent mother abilities in our cows.

Our breed is the standard for carcass quality and comparison. No one goes to the meat counter and looks for certified Hereford steaks and quality cuts. Thanks to the work of Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) and the standards set in 1978, Angus has increased in value. The marbling ability and tenderness values allow Angus to produce a greater percentage of fine-textured, high-quality meat.

In fiscal year (FY) 2007, 347,755 head of Angus cattle were registered. The Angus breeder is backed by the most extensive and reliable beef cattle database in the world through the American Angus Association.

Using these records, expected progeny differences (EPDs) give the breeder the tools to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of their herds in comparison to others in the breed. The dollar value indexes (\$Values) can estimate how future progeny of individual sires are expected to perform, on average, compared to other sires. This transfers value to the quote, "from pasture to plate."

The future

We know where we have been and are living the present. It is the future that is unclear. We face many obstacles as breeders today. The price of land and urban sprawl threatens many of our farms and ranches. The uncertainty of the grain market and the expense of feeding cattle have increased. The cost of petroleum/diesel products has skyrocketed, affecting shows like this one [the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS)].

The Angus future, however, has never looked brighter. Each speaker, in each age level, today is the voice of Angus. Their voices will resonate and ring clear. We are the future. We are young men and young women, raised on Angus operations, learning and gaining insight from our families, loving a breed as if it were part of our very soul, committed to continuing the breed well into the 21st century.

The support of sponsors through our state associations and the National Junior Angus Association, and your dedication to the Angus breed give us success to make the future bright. Your investment will pay dividends in helping the future surpass all expectations. We understand that high demands will be made of future Angus breeders. We are watching and learning. We will make you proud.

Our journey has ended. Your spirited enthusiast has spanned 133 years, never leaving this room. The desk is the same, the seats are the same and the time before us is our own.

I have given much information in my story, "An Angus Tale." We visited the past, looked at the present and envisioned the future. Charles Dickens has nothing on us. With a play on Ebenezer Scrooge's words, "I will live in the past, the present and the future. The spirit of all three will live within me. I will forever promote Angus cattle."



Editor's note: The Angus Journal will be including the winners of the NJAS prepared speech and creative writing contests with the "Next Generation" column in the coming months.