

► The Maher Angus Ranch uses horses and dogs to drive cattle, a new concept for Janssen to experience. “My favorite memory from this intern experience was being able to ride out on horseback to herd and work cattle alongside the family members, as well as the dogs.”



an open mind and excitement about learning from her new experiences. This can-do attitude helped her become more involved and take away more from her educational experience.

The transition from Janssen’s prior cattle experience in Indiana to Maher Angus Ranch in South Dakota was major. From the way the Mahers use cow dogs to gather their herd to the lay of the land, Janssen was in for many new experiences.

Janssen acknowledged that the largest difference she recognized was drought. She said she had never seen a drought so up close and personal, and she hadn’t realized before this summer that it was such an issue. One of her routine chores was to help the family check the 60 water tanks spread throughout the ranch, which opened her eyes to many different aspects of such a dry climate.

“Being out here in South Dakota, it’s a lot

different than what I’m used to,” Janssen says with a grin. “There is a lot more open range and hills, and a lot more cattle than what I’ve grown up with. I like to see that; I like to see that there’s more cattle than people out here.”

Part of the family

Aside from work and geographically related differences, Janssen was also immersed in the culture of life in Morristown and the Maher family. Her main purpose as an intern was to learn about the cattle industry on a registered Angus ranch, but she claims the cherry on top of her summer was the Maher family’s hospitality and kindness.

“The family made the transition easy,” says Janssen. “They really opened up their arms, their house and their family to me.”

Janssen resided in the Maher home as a

“temporary member of the family” for the summer so she could get the full experience of life on the ranch. She accompanied the Mahers to church, weddings, family outings, street dances and even attended the Maher family reunion (along with more than 200 other Mahers). Janssen used her prior showing experience to help the Maher children with their 4-H projects daily.

If you’re lucky enough to be a Talon internship host, Maher advises future host families to treat them like one of their own.

“You just kind of adopt her as your daughter for three months,” he says.

A living legacy

Janssen and the members of the Maher family agreed that the Talon Youth Education Learning Program internship was beneficial for all parties. Janssen was able

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Apply for Talon Youth Education Learning Program internship

If you’re looking for a unique summer internship experience, the Angus Foundation can help. Applications for potential interns are still available on the Angus Foundation website for the Talon Youth Education Learning Program internship.

“The Talon internship program is truly one of a kind in the Angus industry,” says Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation president. “It gives one lucky student the opportunity to experience ranch management firsthand — an invaluable experience. Angus breeders get to work with an up-and-coming leader in the industry. It’s a win-win scenario for both.”

Host Angus breeders get the opportunity to teach the intern about different areas of the Angus industry, from cattle showing and veterinary tasks to fence maintenance and irrigation and more. They also can expose the intern to educational events and activities off the farm, such as seminars, field days, etc. The Talon intern host Angus breeder applications were due Sept. 15.

College sophomores, juniors, seniors, graduate students and recent college graduates who are not older than 25 who have

majoring in an agriculture-related field are eligible to apply. Applicants must be in good standing with either the American Angus Association or the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). Angus youth can apply for the Talon internship program at www.angusfoundation.org and submit an application by Dec. 1 to the Events and Education Department.

The Talon Youth Education Learning Program internship is the legacy of Camron “Cam” Cooper of Talon Ranch. Cooper set up the Angus/Talon Youth Education Learning Program Endowment Fund in 2009 to be a holistic educational experience for students. The internship program pairs motivated Angus youth with working registered Angus breeders/ranches to provide youth valuable education and work experience for a summer. The internship program is open to college sophomores, juniors, seniors, graduate students and recent college graduates under age 25 who are majoring in an agricultural field of study.

For more information on the Angus Foundation, visit www.angusfoundation.org.