

CORNERSTONES

Equipping our future

by Thomas Marten, Angus Foundation

Three of the four Gospels share a parable about the ridiculous idea of lighting a lamp only to hide and obscure its light under a bushel basket. It occurs to me how often we do this both spiritually and practically — even for a nonprofit, like the Angus Foundation.

A light we've hidden too long is the investment Angus Fund donors have made to advance the beef cattle industry as a whole. Because of the generosity of our donors, our mission's impact extends beyond our seedstock breeders, providing tools and resources for commercial cattlemen.

These tools include programs like Angus University; research into regional adaptability of cattle, which led to expected progeny differences (EPDs) for hair shedding; and Beef

Leaders Institute. Two additional opportunities we've kept under wraps too long are our Talon Internship and Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship programs.

Investing in the future

The Angus Foundation has a robust lineup of academic scholarships available. Many target Angus juniors, particularly those interested in pursuing a curriculum in animal science and related fields.

The Angus Foundation also hosts a scholarship program exclusively intended for children of commercial cattlemen who utilize registered Angus genetics in their herd. The Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship is funded through the Angus Fund, and is available to students from a commercial cattle background who

have purchased registered Angus sires or dams and had a paper transferred to them in the past three years.

The scholarships encourage youth in their studies, whether at a four-year university, community college or accredited trade school. Applications for the 2021 scholarship season are available at www.angusfoundation.org and must be returned no later than May 1, 2021.

Experiential learning

Another program that has seen exponential growth in applications is our Talon Youth Educational Internship program. This unique internship offers college-aged students hands-on, experiential learning being mentored by a host farm or ranch. As I write this

column, our selection committee is deliberating over a record number of host and student applications. Many of those students come from commercial cattle backgrounds.

Last year we had the privilege of working with two host operations for two outstanding interns. In a year when so many college students had internships cancelled, our Talon interns were able to realize the vision Cam Cooper had with her estate gift to create her fund. These interns benefited from mentoring provided by their hosts, Point Pleasant Angus and Bar 69 Angus, and were able to learn new skills and gain new experiences.

With a record number of applicants this year, we hope to have even more in 2022. To learn more about this program, you can visit our website or reach out to me. |

Editor's note: Thomas Marten is executive director of the Angus Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to fund and support programs involving education, youth and research in the Angus breed and the ag industry. For more information, email tmarten@angus.org.