

CORNERSTONES

Planning for seven generations

by Thomas Marten, Angus Foundation



Creative solutions are the product of ambition, vision and experience.

On your ranch, you show ambition

through finding the best matings to elevate your herd. You've likely been gaining experience since you could first pull on your own boots. Then there is vision.

When I think of vision and ranching, I think about the Iroquois. Their tribe has traditionally held a seven-generation principle. This principle means they view their decisions with an eye for seven generations.

It is hard for us to conceive of seven generations. Every Christmas, when reading Luke's account of the Nativity, I am always struck by the

genealogy, going back 77 generations. God planned for 77 generations!

While you might not think about seven generations forward, you probably are thinking about your next few generations and how to provide opportunities for your children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

Similarly, donors to the Angus Foundation's Angus Fund think not only about the difference they make today, but the long-term effect they have on others by sponsoring youth programs and scholarships.

Scholarship available

A special scholarship program from the Angus Foundation is designed to offer an opportunity to

the greater Angus family. The Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship is open to graduating seniors and continuing college students who are children of commercial cattlemen who've purchased registered Angus bulls in the past three years.

Applications are available at www.angusfoundation.org. The Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship is the only Angus Foundation scholarship program designed for students from a commercial background instead of a seedstock background. It is part of the Angus Foundation's growing commitment to serving the beef cattle industry. Deadline for applications is May 1.

If you're not in the market for a scholarship to advance your education, maybe you are interested in opportunities to support youth in

the Angus breed and the beef industry at large through charitable giving. It would be my pleasure to visit with you about these opportunities.

Certainly there are creative solutions to maximize your contribution while being tax efficient. Whether you or a loved one is applying for one of our commercial cattlemen scholarships, or if you're interested in making your own legacy last for generations to come, I look forward to discussing these opportunities with you. |

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.