



ASSOCIATION

# Movin' Forward

by Bryce Schumann, CEO, American Angus Association

## On the forefront

*The American Angus Association is fortunate to have had many innovators in its 132-year history. Association members, directors, staff, university collaborators and others — past and present — have contributed to industry-wide breakthroughs in genetic selection, animal breeding and beef quality. The Angus Foundation is ensuring that tradition of leadership continues.*



### Research focus

The Angus Foundation was established in 1980 when the youth-focused efforts of the Association became so successful that a 501(c)(3) organization was required to house funds earmarked for youth scholarships.

People who cared about the youth members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) dedicated their time and money to the educational endeavors of the next generation of Angus breeders and supporters. The aim of these efforts was commendable and formed the genesis for future progress within the breed.

Today, the Association's not-for-profit organization remains known for those efforts to expand youth scholarships and education through character- and leadership-building activities. It has expanded its focus through the years, however, also targeting the

advancement of education for adult Association members, as well as research. I'd like to focus your attention on the latter.

Since 2005, the Angus Foundation has invested more than \$1 million in research projects important to the beef cattle business. Thanks to the generosity of its supporters, the not-for-profit has advanced research to better understand areas such as cow feed intake and efficiency, marbling deposition, fertility markers, hair shedding, genetic evaluation and much more.

Both past and ongoing research areas are leading to important findings that influence how registered and commercial cattle producers use Angus genetics.

### Ongoing efforts

During the February Board of Directors meeting in Saint Joseph, Mo., the Angus

Foundation Board approved funding requests for two important research projects. With funds from the organization, Colorado State University will explore pulmonary arterial pressure (PAP) data and the development of an expected progeny difference (EPD) for high-altitude disease.

Meanwhile, the University of Missouri will receive partial funding for a research project aimed at identifying local adaptability and creating region-specific genomic predictions in beef cattle for fescue toxicosis.

Both areas will lead to important insight for breeders affected by these regional issues, all in addition to the ongoing research being conducted at partnering universities for beef cow efficiency and genetic evaluation methodologies.

### Behind the scenes

The Angus Foundation is often heralded for its important youth and education activities; however, its equally important contribution is expanding in the field of research.

Other recent examples include two important white papers on broad-based industry topics — one on heat adaptation in Angus cattle and one on the effects of expanding ground beef demand. I encourage all Association members to visit [www.angusfoundation.org](http://www.angusfoundation.org) to learn more about these Angus Foundation-funded papers and other research contributions — endeavors that have exponential value to the future of our breed.

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