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# Message from the Board

by Terry Boyles, District 7 Director - Northeast

## Good Leaders Help Develop Good Leaders

What do you do when you have so many things you would like to say but don't know where to start? Pick a spot and go, and hope that the editor can figure out how to make it sound intelligent.

Like many folks, my education came from the school of hard knocks. I am proud to say I have a PhD in BS, (that's piled high and deep in bull stuff). With that, came the wisdom not to make the same mistake twice, and hopefully, the inner peace to share it with those who may be younger or less experienced in my comfort areas. I grew up feeling that the more I knew the better I could be at my job; therefore, I asked questions and expected answers. I didn't always ask the person directly because I was too afraid, so I would ask someone else to ask the question for me. As I grew older I felt like I needed to pass on my wealth of information to others - even though they might not really want to know what I thought or knew about the subject. Later on, I figured out if somebody wanted to know what I thought, they would ask; and I would preface my answer with if they didn't REALLY want to know what I thought, stop me now. Yep, I stick my foot in my mouth from time to time, but for the most part I just give my honest opinion. And when I ask a question, I want a straight answer.

Good leaders help develop good leaders, and this is verified by some of the leaders that have evolved from the JRA just since I have been around. No, they don't all become leaders that are in the spotlight, but I dare say there are some that will be one day. There are some that are the strong silent type that make great parents and may one day produce a great leader. We have at least two young men that have become

integral parts of the management of their family Red Angus operations, and another one that has become herd manager of an up and coming breeder.

But let's not forget the young ladies. One who has taken a position with one of the largest machinery manufacturers in the world and another that has become an editor with BEEF magazine. These are just a few of the many that I am proud to say I know. We have young folks that have been successful in the show ring, on judging teams, and some that have that "never met a stranger" personality that will help them be a success in life. Don't get me wrong, I can't say that I had anything at all to do with these young folks' success, but I can say they had someone to lead them in the right direction, and a desire to be a success.

With this being said I go back to a previous statement; there is always someone you look up to and someone who is looking up to you. Our youth are the future of our breed and need to be nurtured as if they were our prize calves. They need our help and support in their young lives and they need to know we will be there for them when it's necessary. We are not here to do their job for them, but maybe give them a gentle nudge to get out of that cow pie they just stepped into. Young folks, don't be afraid to tell that person you look up to thanks for being there, for listening, or for telling you what you needed to hear even if you didn't REALLY want to hear it at the time.

We, as Red Angus breeders, are leaders in the beef industry. Let us continue with that mentality and apply it to our youth so they can be leaders in their own right in tomorrow's beef industry. ■