

Four-year-old Cody McPherson attended the Beef Breeders show in Miles City, Mont., the first part of February. Cody came up to Red Angus Board of Director Bruce Ketchum's pen of bulls and stated, "Sir, I would like to buy that bull in your pen." Ketchum, having noticed that Cody's grandpa was at the pen to the left of his, asked Cody, "What about one of your black bulls?" Cody replied, "No, I want a red bull for my red cows so I can have red calves."

Bruce inquisitively asked Cody, "What about one of those bulls?" as he pointed to the Horned Herefords that were penned to the left. Cody replied, "I might buy one of those to buck them out."

Cody proceeded to put his hand in his pocket and brought out a dollar bill to give to Ketchum to buy the bull. Cody said, "I want two bulls," and reached in his pocket for another dollar bill. As you can see from the expression on Bruce's face he was certainly impressed with this little boy and his determination.

Ketchum asked Cody, "So how are you going to get the bulls home?"

Cody replied, "We will go to the ranch and get the trailer and back it up to this panel and load the bulls in the trailer."

The RAAA Board of Director went on to say, "Cody McPherson, you are one of the reasons that my family is so blessed from raising Red Angus cattle."

Cody McPherson contains an enthusiasm for Red Angus that I hope every Junior Red Angus (JRA) member has or strives to have. Could you imagine what the JRA would look like if even half of our nearly 800 members had the enthusiasm for the breed that Cody has?

The other interesting quality Cody contains is that as a 4-year-old boy, he knew it took red bulls to get red calves out of red cows. He also had a game plan as to how to load the bulls onto a trailer from their pen. Cody McPherson, with the correct guidance and nourishment, could go on to become a very influential person later on in his life. However, if he does not receive guidance he has the possibility of becoming just another person in this world that blends in with everyone else.

The JRA is an organization that tries to provide guidance and nourishment through different programs and events including: Young Stockman, Round-Up, regional Pow Wows and the newly integrated Mentor Program. I would suggest to any young individuals wanting to improve themselves or gain guidance and nourishment to take advantage of the opportunities that are available through the JRA. I personally have gained so much knowledge, made so many connections and gained lifetime friendships by taking full advantage of what the JRA offers.

I challenge the JRA members to strive to have enthusiasm for the Red Angus breed that Cody McPherson has and to take full advantage of the opportunities that are available through the JRA.

- Jaclyn Ketchum, JRA Director