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Our Future Looks Good

As I was thinking about what to write for this article, my mind could not help but go back to my beginning with this organization. We had just moved to our new home in the country and our daughter had joined the 4-H program. After a very brief stint in trying to show sheep, our daughter, through the advice of our Ag-Ed teacher, embarked on showing a Shorthorn steer. Little did I know how far and where that decision would take our family.

We enjoyed showing that Shorthorn steer, and came to love the breed with its fine people and the gentle nature of the Shorthorn cattle. As time went along we decided to expand and she started showing heifers, because we wanted to start forming a herd of cattle that would be a learning experience for our daughter and our son who would later join in showing Shorthorn cattle. We decided to name the venture—Double J Ranch—after the first initials of those two children.

As time went along, not only did we develop a nice herd of those Shorthorn

cattle, but we began to develop relationships with breeders of this great breed of cattle. They were such a great source of knowledge and encouragement for our two children and for Bev and myself. Through the junior program, our children learned many things beyond just the cattle, including but not limited to, public speaking, leadership, friendships, responsibility, and working together as a family.

Little by little, we recognized that we wanted to continue this venture even after our children were finished with their time in the junior program. We continued Double J Ranch and Bev even started her own venture, Jeepetta Cattle Company, because there had developed in our hearts, a love for this Shorthorn cattle and maybe even more a love for our fellow breeders. As time went along, the opportunity for us to give back to the breed and to the those fine people who had done so much for us and our children. To serve on the Board of Directors and to be Advisors to National Junior

Board, came our way, and man, what a thrill those things and times brought to us. To give back to this organization and to the Junior program, was a way of saying thanks for all the breeders and the organization had done in making our children and even Bev and I, more informed about cattle, this breed, and life in general.

So now, as my term on the Board is coming to an end—I can only say thanks for the memories, fun, and excitement. Every hour spent in serving, does not even come close to thanking the organization and the people, for what was given to our children and even now our grandchildren, and especially to Bev and myself. We all need to recognize that “paying it forward” is a way to promote and ensure that this great breed of cattle and breeders, continues to be a force in the cattle business not only in the USA but worldwide. The junior program has value now, but its real value is in the future. And our future does truly look good. 

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