

2025 *Junior Angus* **STOCKMAN OF THE YEAR** *Austin Potts*

Austin Potts of Bonshaw, PEI, is a fourth-generation Angus enthusiast whose passion for the breed runs deep on both sides of his family. His Angus journey began in 2015 when his grandparents, Temple and Gail Stewart, gifted him his first purebred heifer. Today, Austin plays an active role in both his family's commercial operation, Argyle Hill Cattle Company, and in expanding the Angus influence within their herd.

A dedicated 4-H member since age nine, Austin has shown cattle at events across the Maritimes and nationally, including the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair and the PEI Easter Beef Show. He's earned recognition as PEI's Top 4-H Beef Member in 2023 and 2024 and placed in the top five at the EastGen Atlantic Showcase three years running.

Beyond the show ring, Austin works part-time with Worth-A-Bit Angus and gained valuable experience traveling the Maritime show circuit with JEM Farms. He recently graduated from Bluefield High School and will attend Dalhousie University this fall, pursuing a degree in Farm Business Management.



The Junior Angus Stockman of the Year award was developed to recognize those outstanding young cattlemen who are constantly growing their 'stockmanship' capability by actively working with their Angus cattle; with actual farm involvement in day-to-day care of their livestock; learning the pedigrees and being actively involved in some breeding decisions within their operation; promoting their operation and cattle to the public through various and diversified means; growing their knowledge of nutrition, genetics and breeding; producing, selling and supporting demonstrable, reputable, notable, superior quality cattle; and understanding the relationship between our purebred Angus business and the commercial cattle and beef industry from the cow/calf producer through to the retail consumer experience. Five finalists are selected from the nominations. The winner receives a financial reward and a custom trophy buckle. Nominations are due by April 15.



WHY DID YOU JOIN THE CANADIAN JUNIOR ANGUS PROGRAM?

When Showdown came to Nova Scotia in 2016, some family friends invited my family to come and show with them. I was only a Peewee at the time, but Angus cattle had been in my family for generations. Starting with my great Grandfather who was one of the first to use Angus cattle on Prince Edward Island. And I will be the fourth generation after him.

HOW HAS THE JUNIOR ANGUS BEEN BENEFICIAL TO YOU?

Junior Angus has been beneficial to me because it has allowed me to travel to many shows like the Maritime Angus Field Day, and all the Angus Gold Shows in Atlantic Canada. And of course my recent trip to attend Showdown in Alberta and receive the 2025 Junior Angus Stockman of the Year award. It has also allowed me to make many friends through the Angus breed who I will know for the rest of my life.

WHAT HAS BEEN ONE OF YOUR HIGHLIGHTS OR FAVORITE MOMENTS OF RAISING ANGUS CATTLE?

My favorite moment in my experience with Angus cattle would definitely be winning Junior Stockman of the Year award and purchasing my first heifer JEM 41L from JEM Farms.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR OPERATION

Argyle Hill Cattle Co. is an 80 head commercial and purebred Angus operation in Bonshaw, PEI. We own around 400 acres which we use for growing corn, barley, and hay for the cattle. We background and finish our calves before they are sent to Atlantic Beef Products, our local processing plant located in Borden, PEI.

WHAT ARE YOUR SHORT-TERM GOALS AND LONG-TERM GOALS AS AN ANGUS BREEDER?

My short-term goals are to finish my agricultural business diploma at Dalhousie Agricultural Campus and complete my education to use in my family's farm. I also hope to become more involved in the Junior Angus program and attend more conferences such as GOAL and shows like Showdown in the future.

My long-term goals are to expand the farm and begin breeding my own purebred Angus cattle and use more high-quality Angus genetics in our commercial herd as well.

HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE WITH THE CANADIAN JUNIOR ANGUS PROGRAM BEEN FOR YOU SO FAR?

My experience has been great; I have been a part of it for nearly a decade but haven't really been involved in the purebred business until a year or two ago. I have been lucky enough to go to all three Maritime Gold shows last summer and I plan to attend many more. Also, being awarded the Junior Angus Stockman Award for 2025 was a huge honor.

WHAT IS THE BEST THING ABOUT THE CANADIAN JUNIOR ANGUS PROGRAM?

The best thing would be that they care so deeply about the future of the Angus breed, and that they invest so much hard work and money into putting on events for us juniors to learn as much about the breed as possible.

WHY WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THE CANADIAN JUNIOR ANGUS PROGRAM TO OTHERS?

I would recommend it because it offers so many opportunities, whether it is attending your local exhibition to show, or to travel across the country to gather with the other juniors that have the same interests and goals as you do.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR JUNIORS JUST STARTING OUT IN THE ANGUS BUSINESS?

My advice for any juniors would be to make as many friends as possible at all the events you attend as they will be people you may do business with in the future. Having connections in the breed is really beneficial. Also, attend as many shows and conferences as you can because they really are interesting and lots of fun!

