



In my life there have been many changes, but there has always been one constant. Cattle. My life will begin and end with the cattle business. Well, one cattle business in particular. The North American Limousin Foundation (NALF) and the North American Limousin Junior Association (NALJA). Both of my parents have been in the breed for their entire lives and I intend to follow in their footsteps. I have more than just this one world, but this is the one that has done the most to influence my character.

The Limousin people have always been like family to me. The Holloways, Petersons, Hefners, Carmichaels and Holcombs are just a few of the many Limousin names. We know each other

well and will spend the next 40 years getting to know one another even better. Everyone cares about everyone else. Someone can beat me in the ring during the day and be my best friend that night.

As you may already know, I am a national board member for NALJA. Ever since I was little I wanted to be a board member and now I am. It's one accomplishment I am very proud of.

Sometimes, there comes a point when I have to choose between being with cattle people and doing something else. I have turned down summer jobs and internships and trips so I don't have to miss Junior Nationals over the summer. The Junior National experience is something I wouldn't trade for the world.

I think I can sum up my Limousin experience in one phrase; good friends, good cattle and good times. We love to make memories with one another because

we only see each other about three times a year. To this day, I remember things that happened at my very first cattle show. All of those memories are so much stronger because I treasure every moment, as does everyone else.

In no way have I considered leaving the business. I owe so much to NALF and NALJA. I owe my leadership skills, my easy-going nature, and my ability to talk to anyone of any age to this organization and this community.

To me, community means there is something that has grounded you to this group of people and won't let you go. It doesn't have to be a place or a location, as long as we own Limousin cattle and go to shows together, we will forever be part of a community.

Shayla Carmichael
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