

SEMEX/PHOENIX GENETICS MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIP

Winning the Semex/ Phoenix Genetics Michigan State University Scholarship provided plenty of great opportunities for National Livestock Reporting Service Market Analyst and Angus Youth member, Travis Parsci.

"What really opened my eyes during my time in the US was the scale of operations," Travis said. Standing in paddocks surrounded by daughters of great Angus bulls during the breeders tour gave him a really good idea of what each sire was capable of doing. "Not only were there great cattle to see, but also the countryside was beautiful despite many areas being dry. It was good to be able to see Angus cattle doing so well in many different environments."

Highlights of the tour included Gardiner Angus Ranch, Whitestone Krebs and Leachman Cattle Company.

He also spent some time with Lance Ellsworth, General Manager of Genetic Horizons, (the beef component of Semex) who is based in Madison, Wisconsin, visiting some more Angus seedstock producers there. "Woodhill Farms was one of the stops and here I was able to see Bon View Gammer 85, the dam of Bon View New Design 878."

He said travelling with Jim Bruce of Phoenix Genetics meant he got to see more and spend more time with the owners and managers, thanks to Mr Bruce's ties to the operations they visited. "Jim's insights into each visit made it easier to understand all the information that we received. I found the tour a great experience and learned even more than I ever imagined possible."

Like previous scholarship winners he was impressed with the friendliness and helpfulness of Dr David Hawkins from Michigan State University (MSU), and plans to keep in touch. The MSU campus covers more than 2000 hectares, including 1620ha of farmland and when it is in full swing most of the 45,000 students live on campus. Travis said living in the FarmHouse Fraternity during his stay was one of the best things he's ever done, making many new friends.

He had fun attending County Fair and State Fairs which were similar to local and Royal shows, and worked with Maple Land Angus for a week at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE). Along with fellow Animal Science students he travelled to and worked at a couple of sales, and helped the MSU show team with the MSU Hereford sale.

As well as the fun aspects, he attended classes and worked on the slaughter floor and in the boning room at the on-campus abattoir. His subjects included Advanced Feedlot Management, Animal Products, Animal and Product Evaluation and Animal Genetics.

"I would recommend that any member of Angus Youth apply for the Semex/Phoenix Genetics Michigan State University Scholarship. It was something that I never would

have expected to win and it was a great honour to be able to represent Australia and Angus Youth for six months."

Story written by Leanne Savage, The Land newspaper.

Angus Youth thanks Semex Australia, Phoenix Genetics and the Australian Beef Industry Foundation for their sponsorship of this scholarship. For further information on this scholarship call the Angus Society (02) 6773 4608.