AUXILIARY NOTES

by Gina Hope, President, American Angus Auxiliary

What's in a story?

What do you think of when you hear the word "story?"

Personally, I think about telling my children stories of my grandparents and life in the mountain coal towns of southern West Virginia. I think about the stories my children tell me about the fun times they have with their friends. I think of the stories I hear of that one great cow, or the progeny by that one bull. All of these stories are the retellings of history; but at one point they weren't history, were they?

For my grandparents it was just the lay of the land and the status of their economy. For my kids, it was memories they wouldn't give up for the world — that may or may not have made me cringe. For those of us in the cattle industry, it was watching that heifer take her first steps or watching that bull get the champion slap. At

one point every story we tell was at one time our future, and we didn't even know it.

It really comes down to a simple phrase that has become a bit of a mantra for me. Choices and consequences — the choices you make create consequences. Some are good and some are bad, but they all belong to the one who made the choice and they sometimes ripple out to others. What choices will you make this year?

For the American Angus Auxiliary officers and l — we can't wait to tell the story of our year in 2020!

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Officers and directors pictured are (back row, from left) Vivian Wolf, Windhorst, Texas; Marya Haverkamp, Bern, Kan.; Julie Thelen Conover, Holden, Mo.; Rebecca Knott, Laotto, Ind.; Valerie Trowbridge, Meshoppen, Pa. Pictured (front row, from left) are Cindy Ahearn, Wills Point, Texas, advisor; Gina Hope, Berryville, Va., president; Pam Velisek, Fairplay, Md., president-elect; and Deanna Hofing, Westville, Ind., secretary/treasurer. Not pictured is Cindy Worthingon, Waterford, Calif.

