

by Julie Mais  
Editor



## Foundational footprint

*When walking into a friend or family member's new home for the first time, where is your eye drawn?*

Maybe it's the masterfully selected décor followed by their wall color of choice. You might take in the beautiful hardwood floors as you walk into the charming kitchen where meals are lovingly prepared.

I've yet to meet someone who says, "Well this is nice and all, but what I really want to see is the foundation. It is holding up as it should?"

I've had the honor of getting regular updates from my younger brother on the home-building process. My brother, a skilled carpenter, and his wife are quite literally building their homestead

from the ground up — with the help of some friends and family.

The piece of land that was a part of the cornfield last fall has been leveled. Once the dirt work was completed, it was time for the footings, forms and pouring the slab foundation. Following along, I could see the care that was taken in getting it just right.

Laying the foundation to build upon is hard, unglamorous work. It's the finishing touches, the "curb appeal" that gets people excited. Although, what happens if the foundation fails? All work from the foundation up would be obsolete.

When purchasing our first home, my husband and I spent a good amount of time with the home inspector examining the foundation. Because it's the hidden bedrock, the foundation, that keeps the house up, level and longstanding.

## Foundational females

This issue is dedicated to the foundational females that make up the Angus breed. As bulls are being selected this spring, let's take a moment to recognize the other half of the equation and consider how you can make the most of your genetic investment.

Similar to building a home, the Angus breeder's foundation footprint will not look exactly like his neighbor's. You have the opportunity to take the genetics, tools and resources available to you to build the foundation of your choice.

Build it well, and build it right according to your goals, needs and customer expectations. **AJ**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie".

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