

by Julie Mais  
Editor



## Finding the balance, discovering your priorities

*“Mom, how did you do it all?” I asked.*

*“I didn’t,” she replied. “Some things just didn’t get done.”*

My parents raised three kids on a diversified farm in west-central Missouri. They both worked off-farm: my mom in town and my dad as a self-employed carpenter. In between planting, harvesting, working cattle and feeding hay, they drove us to 4-H meetings, sports games and practices, piano lessons, and church activities.

The things that “didn’t get done?” Housework may have gone by the wayside, and meals were often staggered of who had time to eat and when, aside from Sunday dinners after church. I’m certain there were sacrifices made I will never know about for them to build the life they wanted for themselves and us kids.

Moving through life’s chapters, I now have a young family of my own. My husband and I work full-time while raising our daughter and awaiting our second. We are balancing time with family and friends, church and other commitments and trying to get back

to my family’s farm to help when we can. When I think about that next phase, of kids in school and their activities and schedules, I look to those ahead, who are balancing it all, with admiration.

I can’t help but ask, “How do you do it all?”

### Finding your priorities

The March *Angus Journal* is all about “Finding the Balance:

Weighing decisions that affect your work and life.”

When I consider “finding the balance” maybe it should have been reworded to “finding your priorities.”

As I get answers from those who are doing it all, that’s what it seems to come down to. What is one person’s priority might fall off the list for another.

The second piece of advice I get is find your people — those who will encourage you and help you achieve balance between work and life.

In this issue we talk to two

families who are raising kids and cattle — that’s a balancing act of its own. They also give practical tips from their own experiences and provide words of advice. Another Angus family is splitting time between working on the ranch and entrepreneurial endeavors outside the pasture.

The *Angus Journal* team has attended recent Angus and cattle industry events and bring you what we’ve learned about the market, economy and consumer demand to help you in your operations. You’ll also find full coverage of Cattleman’s Congress and the National Western Stock Show.

Finding the balance comes down to discovering your priorities. Similar to how you manage your Angus operations and your breeding programs in your unique environment, you get to set your own priorities. **AJ**



[jmais@angus.org](mailto:jmais@angus.org)

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— Julie Mais