

by Julie Mais
Editor



A legacy that lasts

May is a special month. Coming off the uncertainties of early spring weather, this time of year typically brings consistently warmer temperatures, green pastures dotted with baby calves and colorful blooms abounding. It's that sweet period before the busyness of summer and scorching sun.

This month also gives us a special day, Memorial Day, to stop, remember and honor those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Originally termed Decoration Day following the end of the Civil War in the 1860s, Americans began honoring fallen soldiers by decorating their graves with flowers and flags. May 30 was initially chosen as the date of remembrance because it was considered a time when flowers across the country would be in bloom.

Laying flowers at cemeteries over Memorial Day weekend is an annual tradition for my family, extending our remembrance of fallen soldiers to loved ones we've lost. With my family established in west-central Missouri more than 150 years ago, we travel to several local places.

As we visit each plot, I pepper my grandma and mom with questions about family and friends I've never met; and silence, hugs and tears come as we stop at headstones of ones I knew.

It's a personal time to consider our family tree — the legacy founded generations before us.


We rarely talk about the material things they left us, but instead discuss the values instilled.

Living the legacy

In this issue of the *Angus Journal*, "Living the Legacy," we tackle the inevitable reality that one day your farm or ranch will pass hands. Our team interviewed experts and compiled information we hope will get you thinking about that next step in succession planning.

There's no getting around the fact that with production agriculture, passing on a business means considering high-value assets like land

and equipment that are crucial to livelihoods and legacy. If you and your family have a plan, we hope you keep it up-to-date along with changes your operation experiences year by year. If a succession plan has yet to be made, please read the "Living the Legacy" articles for tips on starting the conversation.

Making plans to successfully pass on your farm or ranch will allow the values established in your family to remain intact along with the family business. 

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

jmais@angus.org

