

Angus Stakes

by Shauna Rose Hermel, editor



Of drought, disease and future events

Welcome to a June issue of the *Angus Journal*. It's a milestone, and a reminder that we replaced the June/July Herd Reference Edition with separate publications for each month. We hope you enjoy the added issue as much as we welcomed the opportunity to bring you Association news, sale reports and the Reno coverage a month sooner than we would have otherwise.

July is our "feeding options" issue. We'll delve into what it means to have a quality vs. a commodity mindset. The issue will mail both to members and to commercial producers for a combined circulation of nearly 80,000 producers.

Got hay?

Sitting in Saint Joseph, Mo., today, it's hard to imagine in other areas there is a drought severe enough to be forcing cattlemen out of business. The good news is that at least some areas of the country should have an abundance of forage this year.

Weather patterns generally place moderate conditions between extremes. So located between the haves and the have-nots are those who have ample supplies, but not

enough extra to sell. A Montana rancher may not know who in Missouri has hay or even which areas are likely to have an abundance.

We want to help by easing the search for a hay supplier or buyer. If you're looking for feedstuffs or have feedstuffs to sell, please contact Abra Ungeheuer in our Web Marketing Department at (816) 383-5239. She can assist you in putting together a classified ad, which we will post to the Internet at www.anguseclassifieds.com free for 60 days. It's your chance to try out our e-Classifieds service at no cost.

Don't forget about our "Dealing With Drought" Web site, located at www.angusjournal.com/drought. It features many articles and links that offer practical advice. We will be updating it with new information as it becomes available.

FMD, BSE information

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) have developed an eight-page informational pamphlet titled *FMD & BSE: What every producer needs to know*. Located on pages 80A-80H of this issue, the pamphlet was

developed with assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and leading veterinarians. With support from Pfizer Animal Health, the NCBA and CBB are distributing more than 1 million copies of the insert to state and national organizations and publications that have volunteered to distribute the information.

The level of misunderstanding about these two headline-grabbing diseases is astounding and dangerous when confused in the minds of consumers. Our industry needs to stay well-informed. It is critical that we do all we can to prevent any foreign disease from entering the United States. That's Job 1. If an outbreak were to occur here, it would be critical for us to understand how we could minimize the spread or the damage.

The pamphlet provides a good background to answer many of the questions that arise. See also Eric Grant's story "Smoke Signals Catastrophe" on page 83.

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N J A S 2 0 0 2 S E E K S Y O U R I N P U T

It's never too soon to start preparing for a National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). The Wisconsin juniors will host the 2002 event in Milwaukee. To help offset some of the costs, they are hoping to obtain sponsorships from Milwaukee-area businesses — Harley-Davidson, Miller Park (the new home of the Milwaukee Brewers), NASCAR and Midwest Express, to be specific.

The Wisconsin juniors need your help in supplying information that will entice these companies to become involved. They need some demographics.

How many Harley-Davidson motorcycles does your family own?

How many professional baseball games do you attend per year?

Do you own season tickets to a baseball franchise?

If so, how many season tickets? Which team?

How many flights have you flown this year?

How many NASCAR events have you attended in the past year?

Hollie May, Germantown, Wis., tells me Major League Baseball's All-Star game and a NASCAR race both will coincide with the junior show in Milwaukee. Wouldn't it be great if these organizations would work with the juniors to provide an event to remember? All they need is a reason. And that reason is that you would be excited to participate.

Let's give Hollie all the ammunition she needs. E-mail her your answers to the previous questions at toofers@execpc.com. Or you can mail them the old-fashioned way to her at N115 W19680 Woodland Dr., Germantown, WI 53022.

I'm sure she also would accept testimonials about motorcycles, baseball, race cars and flying.

Hollie, here's mine: Last winter I flew on Midwest Express for the first time. I will try to fly Midwest Express from now on. When we travel for Angus, we carry camera and computer bags, so the added legroom and bigger seats made my trip much more comfortable. The direct flight saved me a good three hours in extra travel time, well worth the extra \$20 I paid compared to a competing airline's lowest fare. A real meal also was welcome, and the service was great.