AUXILIARY NOTES

by Julie Conover, president, American Angus Auxiliary

Maternal Legacy

On May 14th, we celebrated Mother's Day. Instead of flowers, I asked for specialty ear tags for our cow herd.

After a brief discussion about usefulness and a conversation about how tags would be cheaper than flowers, we now have yellow, light blue, pink, black, white, orange, red, green, teal and purple ear tags. This rainbow of colors not only helps our daughter remember cows, but also our chore helpers and neighbors better identify if an animal is having an issue or wandering beyond our property. In case you were wondering, each color now represents one of our cow families.

This refocusing on the cow family is in fact helping better identify animals from a distance and allowing a fast recollection of the pedigree. Something small in a sense but large in the scheme as we are now talking about the next generation really getting interested in the farm. While a 3-year-old isn't ready to take over, we openly embrace her passion and want to keep that enthusiasm.

In 2022 we honored the legacy of the American Angus Auxiliary. These hardworking females shaped the Auxiliary and had the tough conversations to anticipate and react to challenges and opportunities. In celebration of many of these exceptional women, the American Angus Auxiliary commissioned CJ Brown to create a commemorative print to honor our rich maternal heritage, listing each past Auxiliary president and honoring 29 influential cow families. A limited number of these prints are available on our website.

In our 71st year, I am proud to serve as your 69th American Angus Auxiliary president. In regards to legacy, my leadership term followed the first Auxiliary second-generation president as Deanna Hofing fulfilled her service and her mother, Carol Bloom, served as president in 1991-92. Deanna and Carol served 30 years apart, representing the first passing of the mother-daughter torch for president. As your president, I now serve 15 years after my mother, Nancy Diuble Thelen, who was president in 2007-08. I serve in this role with passion, optimism and an incredible respect for the influential ladies who shaped this organization.

I truly look forward to more generational presidents, and hope the little girls excited to go see their cows with colorful ear tags will choose to be involved in this great organization.

Thank you to our members across the country. We look forward to seeing you at the National Junior Angus Show. If you have any questions or would like to get more involved, please reach out to myself or any of our Auxiliary officers or regional directors.

Sincerely,

Julie T. Conover

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