

by Julie Mais  
Editor



## Tales of trials

*Back in March, while on my drive in to work, I witnessed a lovely sunrise. As I steered my car northeast around a corner into the morning light I took in a rainbow of pastel colors bouncing off a lake. It was a peaceful sight.*

My heart soon sunk at the thought of what lies beneath the calm water. Peeking out of that flooded land were trees, tops of fence posts and an ironic irrigation system.

Since that day in March I've watched the waters recede only to rise again. At the time of writing this article in mid-June, that ground can once again be mistaken for a lake. About a week earlier on my drive back west I could see the water funneling out of the river through a broken levee.

The Missouri River bottom I cross driving to Saint Joseph, Mo., bears witness to the harsh spring dealt to many in the Midwest and Plains.

At the same time those middle-of-the-map farmers were hoping for a stretch of days to get in the field and for pastures to dry, Angus breeders in the Southeast were praying for rain.

It's not just Mother Nature that deals a tough hand — from coast to coast Angus breeders face various challenges from market swings to policy to urban sprawl. And just as breeders must manage their operation according to their environment, the external pressures faced do not look the same from state to state.

### In this issue

We worked to fill the pages of this July *Angus Journal* with stories about the challenges breeders experience in different regions.

This publication leads off hearing from an Angus family in New York. They saved their operation by helping form a locally led program to keep New York City's drinking water clean.

We travel to the rural cusps of Washington, D.C.; Atlanta, Sacramento, Calif.; and Chicago

where Angus breeders are facing challenges and finding opportunities as cities grow outward.

This issue also includes one of four Angus Advisor columns in which our team of Angus advisors offer regional tips for herd management.

The American Angus Association Board of Directors recently announced Mark McCully as CEO, and the Association welcomed him June 10. Learn more about Mark, who most recently served as vice president of production for Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), on page 73. Turn to page 16 for the column, "Common Ground," to read how Mark views the role of breed associations in the industry's future. 

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie". The script is cursive and elegant.

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