AUXILIARY NOTES

by Deanna L. Hofing, president, American Angus Auxiliary

Defining Moments July is one of my favorite and most exhausting

months of the year.

Between the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS), American Angus Auxiliary activities being in full swing, and the start of the great Indiana State Fair and county fairs everywhere, July is a whirlwind. Oh, and don't let me forget, my kids start school the end of July as they are on a balanced school schedule. Whew!

Typically, by the middle of August, I am seeing double and try to avoid making any critical decisions until I get some sleep. Decisions, whether they are correct or incorrect, can be defining moments in people's lives.

One such decision in my life was when our family decided we would leave our agriculture-rich life, our families and our friends to move more than 6,000 miles to Japan for two-and-a-half years. Looking back on this decision, it was one of the best decisions of our lives.

Moving to Japan into a high-rise expat apartment community, not speaking the native language and immersing ourselves into a brandnew culture was overwhelming and invigorating all at once. When we moved, we went into the experience with an open mind and a willingness to adapt. With this mindset, we had the most amazing time learning about the unique Japanese culture, the Japanese people's serenity and kindness, as well as experiencing all

the beautiful regions in their country. When looking at how this specific decision affected my children, I see how my kids can now acclimate to scenarios more rapidly, are more worldly in their views of how diverse cultures live and have returned to the United States with friends from all over the world.

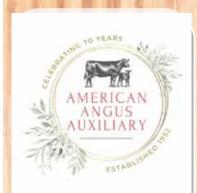
In my life, the choice to move across the world and experience a unique way to live was a defining decision. I take the Japanese lessons and point of view into my daily life as well as into managing of the American Angus Auxiliary. With this mindset I try to be a better person, better manager and better friend.

I challenge each of you to step outside your comfort zone and try something that scares you. Maybe it's not moving across the globe as I did, but create that bucket list and check off a few of those "to-dos." It could be the decision that defines you.

Lastly, I want to wish each of the Angus juniors good luck during the NJAS. Please, take advantage of each contest you can, and most of all, thank your parents for all they do.

Dearma L Hofing

bloomdea@hotmail.com



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If there are any questions, please contact one of the following:

Cortney Holshouser,

kncholshouser@aol.com

Cindy Worthington,

cfcpct@yahoo.com

Jera Pipkin,

JPipkin@angus.org

Deanna Hofing, bloomdea@hotmail.com

Christy Perdue,

crittyunc@hotmail.com