AUXILIARY NOTES

by Gina Hope, President, American Angus Auxiliary

Uncertainty of Tomorrow

As the door to your years as a junior Angus member come to a close,
you still have an opportunity to find new ways to stay involved in the Business Breed.

I can remember, as I'm sure a number of you can, when you were turning 21 and the older family members or friends of your parents would ask, "So, what do you want to do next?"

I can also remember thinking, "Well — I have this plan, and if the stars align and I work very hard — THIS is what I'll be doing next."

Next for our juniors may be a career that matches their degree, further education that would be beneficial for the field they want to enter or continuing in the career path they chose right out of high school.

The answer is different for each individual, as each person travels a different path to reach where they are at the magic age of 21. Some paths you had no intention of going down or maybe didn't even know were there, and a guiding hand or gentle word nudged you.

Aging out of the junior program is a challenging time. A time when doors and windows of opportunities are open — things that will take a lot of your time and focus — and you see your years as an Angus junior beginning to gain distance in the rearview mirror. Most juniors have built such a network within the Angus family it's daunting to figure out how to stay involved with the best cattle breed association.

I suggest you stay connected and become involved, but on a much smaller scale. Devote some time to the world you are beginning outside of the junior Angus program, while keeping a tether line to the breed association that helped to shape your life. AJ

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Thank you to all of our juniors for traveling to Tulsa, Okla., and juniors at home that participated in the 2020 National Junior Angus Show. The Auxiliary applauds all of you for that participation, creativeness and compliance with your work. Best of luck to you all for the rest of this year!