

# MICHIGAN ANGUS AUXILIARY

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## 1967-1992

### Twenty-five Years of Angus Enthusiasm

by Nancy Diuble Thelen



The purpose of the Michigan Angus Auxiliary has not changed over the past 25 years. It was organized on March 10, 1967 to assist Michigan Angus breeders and Angus youth in educational and promotional activities. Today we are still carrying out that mission.

We presently sponsor the Miss Michigan Angus Queen contest, provide scholarships for graduating seniors, sponsor and organize the Michigan Preview Show in cooperation with the Michigan Angus Association, provide hospitality for various activities, sponsor the junior showmanship contest, award certificates of achievement to outstanding junior members, as well as support American Angus Auxiliary programs and activities.

The Michigan Angus Association selected four women to organize the Michigan Angus Auxiliary in 1967. They were Janet Pless, Ruth Simmons, Miriam Underhill, and Pat Cook, chairwoman. Elected as the first officers of the Auxiliary were president — Mrs. Orville Cook, Britton; president elect — Mrs. Steven Simmons, Webberville; second vice president — Mrs. R.S. Underhill, Bath, third vice president — Mrs. C. Gerald Haarer, Williamston; secretary — Mrs. James Maxey, Eaton Rapids; treasurer — Mrs. Bruce Pless, Dansville; and delegate at large — Mrs. H.W. Bakhaus, Plymouth.

*Five charter members of the Michigan Angus Auxiliary helped celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the organization. Pictured (l to r) are: Judy Good, Ruth Simmons, Katey Maxey, Lou Ritchie and Louisa Diuble. The celebration was held in conjunction with the Michigan Angus Preview Show.*

Charter membership closed on July 30, 1967 with 90 members. At the 1967 American Angus Auxiliary luncheon in Chicago, the Michigan Angus Auxiliary was presented a scrapbook in recognition of having the most new members in that year. The original projects of the Auxiliary included a yearly scholarship, the Michigan Angus Queen contest, a drawing for half side of Angus beef, the sale of Angus promotional items, assisting the Michigan Junior Angus Association, beef promotion booths, and providing hospitality at all Michigan Angus functions.

To establish the scholarship fund, "Auxie" a gift heifer was presented to the Michigan Angus Auxiliary by Kitty Kurtis Angus Inc., Britton, Mich., for the purpose of auctioning at the 1968 Angus Futurity. We were fortunate to have 12 "Auxie" heifers donated to the Auxiliary between 1968 and 1979. Donators included Boutell Ranch, West Branch; Knobby Hills Farm; Anher Farm, Plymouth; Olsen Farm, Milan; Winding Lane Farm, Laingsburg; Big Rock Valley, Cassopolis; Herb Lou Farm, Ann Arbor; Premier Corporation, Fowlerville; Good Angus Farm, Charlotte; Black Oak Farm, Holly; Eugenics Angus, Perry; and Kitty Kurtis Angus.

The money from the sale of the heifers was used for scholarships and put into time certificates. The Angus scholarships which are presented now are from the interest on the money earned on the heifer sales. Since 1968, 41 scholarships have been presented to outstanding junior Angus members who have graduated from high school and were going on to some type of college classes. Michigan entries in the American Angus Auxiliary scholarship contest have placed very well, with a current record of four first place winners, four second place winners, three third place winners and one fifth place recipient.

The Michigan Angus Queen contest was one of the first activities of the newly organized group. The first Michigan Angus Queen was crowned on July 30, 1967 and was Nancy Diuble of Ann Arbor. Since 1967, 21 young women have represented Michigan Angus breeders as their queen.

Michigan has also had contestants in the National Junior Angus Showmanship contest since it was started in 1967. The Auxiliary has helped sponsor and organize the contest to select our state representatives for many years. Michigan juniors who represented us in the first Na-

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tional Junior Angus Showmanship contest were Gary Girbach of Saline and Kay Railer of Hanover. Fifty Michigan juniors have since participated in national contests, with an outstanding record of three first place showmanship winners, six more in the top five, eight others selected as finalists and ten receiving honorable mention.

Over the years many women have given many hours to the Auxiliary. They have served as officers, committee members and chairwomen, and helped out wherever needed. Past presidents of the Michigan Angus Auxiliary include Pat Cook, Britton; Ruth Simmons, Webberville; Gladys Nagel, Metamora; Carrie Longfield, West Branch; Katy Maxey, Eaton Rapids; Janet Pless, Dansville; Patti Rae, Onondaga; Janet Rex, Fenton; Nancy Berger, Owosso; Louisa Diuble, Ann Arbor; Dottie Benham, Laingsburg; Nancy Bohlen, Howell; Joan Lutchka, Grass Lake; Lois Foster, Niles; Linda Mann Sterrett, Jackson; Diane Smith, Buchanan; Sharon Diuble Vaassen, Ann



Arbor; and Barb Sweeney, Mason.

Several of our Michigan members have also been active in the American Angus Auxiliary, serving on various committees and as officers. We are proud to have two of our past presidents also serve as officers in the national organization and as president of the American Angus Auxiliary — Patti Rae and Lois Foster. Michigan has also had the privilege of hosting three of the national Auxiliary luncheons - in 1968, 1981 and 1990.

*Current officers of the Michigan Angus Auxiliary joined in celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the organization during the 1992 Michigan Angus Preview Show. Pictured are (l to r): Sharon Vaassen, immediate past president; Lois Foster, historian; Jan Becraft, vice president; Barb Sweeney, president; and Nancy Thelen, secretary-treasurer.*

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