



# Up Front

► by **John Crouch**, executive vice president

## Local associations strengthen Angus ties

*During the month of February, I had the privilege of attending two association meetings other than the American Angus Association Board of Directors meeting in Saint Joseph, Mo. One of these was the 85th Annual Meeting of the East Tennessee Angus Association in Knoxville; the other was the 65th Annual Meeting of the Missouri Angus Association in Columbia. On each occasion I was invited to address the group in one fashion or another. I enjoyed both events immensely, the former being my "home" association in my home state, the other being my adopted association and state. After each occasion I was flooded with a sense of nostalgia and contentment.*

### Local involvement

Throughout the United States there are 150 local, state and regional Angus associations. Each of these organizations has adopted rules and bylaws and is bound together by a group of people with common interests. These associations serve vital and important functions, not only in the promotion of Angus cattle, but also in the improvement of human relations.

The bonds that exist between people of the land who are engaged in animal agriculture are unlike any other relationships in the world, save perhaps those which exist in organized religion. We are a people engaged in an enterprise that is as basic as life itself.

Participation in local Angus association

activity is, for the most part, a family affair. Various events sponsored by local associations include annual field days that offer entertaining and educational programs for all people, both young and mature. These events are truly family events in a picnic atmosphere where adults can hear an entertaining and educational speaker, while youngsters become better acquainted enjoying activities for their age levels.

Many state and local associations sponsor junior preview shows in the summer. Not only do these events serve as precursors to, and training events for, the larger regional and regional preview shows, in turn they provide excellent stepping-stones to the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). In

addition, these programs are very important in attracting and encouraging youth involvement in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). Suffice it to say that the sense of responsibility and the fair competition generated in these youth programs are invaluable in the development of future agricultural leaders.

The membership of the American Angus Association is very diverse. On the surface, initial thoughts are that most Angus breeders have large operations. An examination of our membership rolls reveals that more than 69% of our members record nine or fewer animals each year, while 81.5% record fewer than 20 animals.

One of the most important functions and benefits of belonging to a state or local Angus association is that small and large breeders alike are able to band together to market registered Angus cattle. Most associations have, among other benefits, a sale committee that organizes one or more consignment sales each year through which members are afforded the opportunity to merchandise their cattle. In addition, educational programs are often provided during the course of the year to offer instruction in the proper preparation and advertising techniques for a successful sale.

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

**Activities & Junior Activities**—James Fisher, director ■ **Administrative Secretary**—Diane Strahm ■ **Angus Information Management Software**—Scott Johnson, director ■ **Commercial Programs**—Matt Perrier, director ■ **Communications & Public Relations**—Susan Rhode, director; Shelia Stannard, assistant director ■ **Finance & Accounting**—Richard Wilson, director ■ **Information Systems**—Lou Ann Adams, director ■ **Member Services & Office Management**—Bryce Schumann, director; Carol Waller, assistant director ■ **Performance Programs**—Bill Bowman, director

### AMERICAN ANGUS AUXILIARY

**President**—Nancy Jo Sullivan, Marietta, OH  
For a complete listing of officers, refer to page 50.

**REGIONAL MANAGERS**—Refer to page 264.

### CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF LLC

**President**—Jim Riemann, Wooster, Ohio  
For a CAB staff listing, refer to page 126.

**Take action**

The American Angus Association encourages producers to become active members of these more localized associations. Active membership gives you, the producer, more leadership experiences and enhances your role in the future of the beef cattle industry. For contact information for an association in your state or area, visit our Web site at [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org).

The American Angus Association,

realizing the importance of strong local, state and regional associations, is hosting a two-day program called "Angus Leaders' Boot Camp" June 5-6 in Saint Joseph. In addition to a two-day educational and motivational forum, office tours and one-on-one visits with staff members and directors will be encouraged.

The system that ranges from county Angus associations to the American Angus Association is unique. It has provided a

forum for developing not only junior leaders, but also adult leaders, many of whom have provided leadership on a national level. The only requirement for participation is desire ... *Get involved!*



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