



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Weatherbound

One of my memories of visiting my grandparents near Goodland, Kan., is the weather diary they kept near the window in the kitchen. Every day they logged in the high and low temperatures and just how much precipitation fell that day. I wish now I had asked them how they used the information.

Healthy respect

In addition to raising cattle and sheep, Grandma and Grandpa Coon were avid gardeners. They planted everything from potatoes to flowers according to the guidelines spelled out in *The Farmer's Almanac*. We enjoyed the fruits of those labors on every visit.

I've tried to follow suit, but my temperament seems better-matched to yarn than to greenery, though I have found that gooseberry bushes can survive my care.

In agriculture, we have to keep a healthy respect for the weather. Not doing so can prove deadly. No doubt, my grandparents' observation of the weather and trends in the weather helped them to carve out a living on the Kansas prairie.

No matter what ag business consumes our time, the weather will remind us there are forces out of our control. I think that perspective makes agriculturists, and especially those out in the elements taking care of their stock, some of the most humble, spiritual people on this earth.

Whether you got buried in snow or covered in ice, this winter is sure to have tested the mettle of many a cowman. The ramifications of these storms are sure to last

longer than the snow and ice. For those of you struggling with weather issues, my thoughts and prayers are with you. I hope you can find it within you to do your best, then leave God the rest and trust in His ability to give you what you need.

Convention news

By the time you get your February issue, weather permitting, the 2007 Cattle Industry Annual Convention and Trade Show in Nashville, Tenn., will be drawing to a close. Each year, approximately 5,000 cattlemen gather for this event, which features meetings of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), the American National CattleWomen (ANCW), Cattle-Fax, the National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF) and the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion and Research Board (CBB).

From the down-to-earth, practical production tips that can be garnered from the Cattlemen's College® to issue overviews, from new products revealed in the trade show to the policy discussions held in committee and brought before the voting body, this meeting covers a broad range of what you need to know as a stakeholder in the cattle business.

It is a large meeting, and therefore limited in the facilities that can hold the entire thing. It can be an expensive one to attend for the average cow-calf producer who is confronted with weather, calving and other issues at home. That's one of the reasons we feel coverage of the event at www.4cattlemen.com is so important.

There's nothing like being there and visiting with other folks at the conference, but if that's not possible, visit the web site so you can stay informed. Even if you did attend, I bet you didn't get to attend every session you wanted to. Visit www.4cattlemen.com for a broader view.

Welcome, Mathew

Please help us welcome Mathew Elliott to the Angus Productions Inc. (API) team as an assistant editor. Mathew graduated in December from Kansas State University with a dual degree in agricultural journalism and communications, and animal science.

Mathew grew up on a seedstock and farming operation near Hiawatha, Kan., and was active in 4-H, Maine Anjou junior programs, and his family's livestock and farming operation. In college he was very active in leadership roles for Phi Kappa Theta fraternity.

Mathew fills the position vacated by Abby White, who joined the Fleishman-Hillard public relations agency in Kansas City, Mo., in December.

We look forward to getting Mathew involved in coverage of the junior programs, coordinating various columns for the *Angus Journal* and the *Angus Beef Bulletin*, assisting with production of the magazines, and conducting interviews and writing for both publications.

E-MAIL: shermel@angusjournal.com

ANGUS PRODUCTIONS INC.

3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506; 1-800-821-5478; fax: (816) 233-6575; office hours: (M-F) 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Central) home page: www.angusjournal.com

Staff are listed by name, phone extension and e-mail prefix. All direct phone numbers are "(816) 383-5..."; all e-mail addresses are "...@angusjournal.com"

General manager — Terry Cotton, 214, tcotton

Editorial Department — Editor, Shauna Rose Hermel, 270, shermel

■ Associate editor, Crystal Albers, 215, calbers ■ Assistant editors, Mathew Elliott, 277, melliott, & Micky Wilson, 213, mwilson ■ Editorial assistant/proofreader, Linda Robbins, 245, lrobbins ■ Artists, Mary Black & Craig Simmons

Field editors — Barb Baylor Anderson, 305 Valley View Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025, (618) 656-0870, anderagcom@sbcglobal.net ■ Kindra Gordon, 11734 Weisman Rd., Whitewood, SD 57793, (605) 722-7699, kindras@gordonresources.com ■ Janet Mayer, 259 Mile Hill Rd., Johnstown, PA 15909, (814) 322-4687, jmayer5013@aol.com ■ Becky Mills, Rt. 1, Box

414, Cuthbert, GA 31740, (229) 732-6748, lovettmills@alltel.net ■ Troy Smith, 44431 Sargent River Rd., Sargent, NE 68874, (308) 527-3483, wordsmith@nctc.net

Advertising/Production Department — Manager, Cheryl Oxley, 216, coxley ■ Advertising coordinators, Annie Jensen, 223, ajensen, & Karri Mildenerger, 289, kmildenerger ■ Production assistant, Carol Beckett, 226, cbeckett ■ Advertising artists, Mike Bush & Monica Ford ■ Advertising proofreader, Jacque McGinness

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