



Auxiliary Notes

► by Amy Iman Bellis, president, American Angus Auxiliary

Angus involvement

Don't just raise Angus, take an active role in the breed. Whether you have deep family roots in the Angus business or you're a first-generation producer, volunteer and let your Angus pride shine.

Remembering an Angus leader

I thought I had a rich Angus history. However, I truly believe that if you cut our American Angus Association Secretary/Treasurer, Sharee Sankey, she would bleed Angus.

In January, I attended the funeral of Sharee's father, Bob Laffin, in Kansas. It is never easy to lose someone so ingrained in the Angus business, but losing someone who has a larger-than-life personality seems even more unsettling. Bob was not only a huge Angus supporter, he was a great Auxiliary cheerleader, and he will be missed.

Tom Burke rendered an Angus eulogy that celebrated Bob's efforts, which would rival almost any other family's involvement in the breed. He did not call Bob a cattleman, but rather, an Angus man.

Sharee's grandfather and great-grandfather were both on the American Angus

Association Board of Directors. Sharee's son, Cody, was an Auxiliary scholarship recipient, and daughter, Jeana, is on the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board. Now Sharee is preparing to become president of the Auxiliary in a couple years, and to top all of this off, the family has been in the Angus business continually for 104 years. This family definitely has Angus in their blood, and we are delighted to have Sharee on our officer team.

Committee reports

I have spoken to several committee chairwomen lately, and I want to thank them for their efforts. Make sure you check our Web site (www.angus.org/auxiliary) often to see what is happening. Revonda Ratledge, Ways & Means chairwoman, has new Montana Silversmith items for sale on the Angus Sale Barn portion of the Web site. Revonda can be reached at (336) 699-4108 or angussale@yadtel.net.

Scholarship. High school seniors should take a look at the Auxiliary Web site at www.angus.org and click on "Auxiliary" to download a scholarship application. Ten scholarships will be awarded at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) to outstanding Angus juniors from across the United States. The deadline for sending a completed application is May 10.

Miss American Angus. Wravenna Phipps, our reigning Miss American Angus, has been busy representing our breed. Next month, look for an update on Wravenna's activities and travels.

Notebooks. Auxiliary guidelines and year-end committee reports are available in a three-ring notebook. The Auxiliary Annual Report insert in the February *Angus Journal* will be mailed to notebook recipients. This contains committee chairwomen information, Auxiliary annual meeting minutes, Miss American Angus' speech, state scholarship contact information and the

financial report. To receive your copy of the guidelines notebook and yearly updates, please send \$10 to the American Angus Auxiliary in care of Amy Iman Bellis, 8232 Woods Rd., Orrick, MO 64077.

Thank you

Last month I had the opportunity to thank a lot of people, but I am sure I left out many. Let me include Brost Angus Farm, Harrodsburg, Ky., in that list. Gary and Linda Brost generously donated a custom-designed T-shirt to each contestant in the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB) Cook-Off last year. Linda also chairs the Auxiliary Finance Committee and makes magic with our annual budget numbers. It is easy to see why she is a past Distinguished Woman of the Auxiliary.

Don't forget

The NJAS is fast approaching, and so is our midyear meeting. We are planning a fun "Bring 'em Out of the Barns" session that you won't want to miss. We'll see you at "Angus and All That Jazz" in Kansas City, Mo.

Looking for a place to get involved in the industry? Come to the second "Excellence, No Exception" conference in May 2005 at Saint Joseph, Mo. The original leadership conference brought about many new ideas and much fellowship. If you are a "mover and shaker" in the Angus breed, we want you at this conference.

Get involved

Looking back, Sharee Sankey's family didn't just raise cattle, they took on active roles in the breed. Leadership can be a thankless job at times and a real rush at others. I challenge anyone to come to the awards presentations at the NJAS and not be moved by the Angus juniors receiving rewards for their hard work. It will make you want to be a part of it. No excuses — get involved. Make a difference in an Angus junior's life.

E-MAIL: bellisfamilyfarm@aol.com

2004 American Angus Auxiliary Officers



► President — Amy Iman Bellis, 8232 Woods Rd., Orrick, MO 64077; (816) 770-3386; fax: (816) 770-5540; bellisfamilyfarm@aol.com

► Vice president — Shirley Williams, PO Box 789, Fort Smith, AR 72902; (479) 474-1013; fax: (479) 471-1605; williamsfair Oaks@aol.com

► Secretary-treasurer — Sharee Sankey, 1124 S. 1050 Rd., Council Grove, KS 66846; (620) 767-5026; sankeys6nranch@yahoo.com

► Advisor — Nancy Jo Sullivan, 3904 N. Village Round Dr., Park City, UT 84098; (435) 940-1348; fax: (435) 940-1349; sjscartersville@aol.com