



Auxiliary Notes

► by Amy Iman Bellis, president, American Angus Auxiliary

Partnering with the Angus family

If you crack open a dictionary and look up the word "auxiliary," you'll find that it means a helping, assisting, subsidiary of a main group. We are colleagues, partners, mates and cooperators. As the Angus Journal celebrates its 25th anniversary under the ownership of the American Angus Association, we are delighted to be included in the "Valued Partners" issue.

Family functions

To me, being valued partners means being a part of the whole Angus family. Like the farm, it is a family business. The American Angus Auxiliary is partners with the American Angus Association, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), the *Angus Journal*, Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) and all producers.

The Auxiliary could not function the way we do today without the help and support of the Association, the *Angus Journal*, juniors and the entire Angus family. Likewise, we know that we provide programs and awards that benefit the Association and juniors.

Serving juniors

In an effort to find out if my kids know what the Auxiliary does for them as Angus juniors, I asked my 15-year-old, "What does the Auxiliary do for you?"

She answered, "It took our mom away."

I had to laugh. There is some truth in that at times. What I was attempting to hear from my kids were the same answers I ask of Angus juniors who need my signature during the mentoring program at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS).

The Auxiliary provides Angus juniors with 10 national scholarships, the Janet Castle Crystal awards, Silver Pitcher awards, Achievement awards, the Richard L. Spader

Memorial Belt Buckle and the Pat Grote Memorial Belt Buckle. It also sponsors and conducts the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB) Cook-Off and the Miss American Angus program.

Six Auxiliary committees operate solely to run these junior awards and competitions. The chairwomen and members of these and all Auxiliary committees are the very heart of the Auxiliary family. I am honored this year to work with so many capable and dependable women. Many of you have made my job easier, and I am in your debt.

One of our busiest committees, Miss American Angus, has had a changing of the guard. Past chairs, Ann Bell, Good Hope, Ga., and Christy Page, Winder, Ga., have a long record of service to the Auxiliary and to the Association. They have stepped down to spend more time raising Angus cattle and enjoying Christy's new baby. We cannot thank these two enough for the level of professionalism they have maintained with the Miss American Angus program. Our Miss American Angus is the queen of all breed association queens. Other breed representatives try to emulate her.

Leadership like that of Ann and Christy is hard to find, but we think we have outdone ourselves again. Mary and Emily McCurry of Burrton, Kan., have graciously agreed to run this active committee. Mary served the

Association as Miss American Angus from 1971 to 1972. Emily was the first-place girl Auxiliary scholarship winner in 2002. Best of luck to the McCurrys. I am sure we will continue to hear great things about this committee.

Media spotlight

While we are talking about great Angus partners, I would like to thank Ernie Bingman of *Angus Topics* and Price Harrison of *Angus News* for their support and coverage this year. These two publications run our column each month and have the most patience when it comes to due dates. Thank you both for your partnership and help this past year.

Likewise, Crystal Albers of the *Angus Journal* has the patience of a saint. Not only does she work with me, but she is a great source of suggestions and ideas. Crystal, I owe you lunch sometime, gal. Thank you for all you do for the Auxiliary.

Family ties

Thinking of valued partners, we can't forget our families. The American Angus Auxiliary officers volunteer four years of our lives for the workings of the Auxiliary. Our husbands and children have had to fend for themselves during many a long conference call or committee meeting. This, too, is a family commitment. My kids have helped stuff envelopes, type minutes, proofread columns, run copies, take a million phone messages, and load many boxes for Louisville, Ky., or the NJAS. They do so willingly (most of the time) because they see the good that the Auxiliary does and they know who puts on their Cook-Off.

This November will be my husband's first trip to our annual meeting in Louisville. He goes to the NJAS with us, but has not been able to make Louisville thus far. Kirk is the sales trainer for Bayer Corp. His job allows me the freedom to volunteer for the Auxiliary and other organizations. Kirk, thank you. And thank you to all our officers' husbands for their support, understanding and guidance through the years. You are all very valued partners of the Auxiliary.

The word "auxiliary" means we are a part of a whole group. We have a rich history of service and cooperation with the Association and are a valuable part of the Angus family. It is with great pleasure that we help celebrate the 25th-anniversary issue of the *Angus Journal*.

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2004 American Angus Auxiliary Officers



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