



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Time to switch gears

As we wrap up this issue, I find myself a little at a loss for words. I think they've all been used. I'm sure the planners of the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) feel somewhat the same. It takes a lot of work by a lot of hands to accomplish a goal that big, that enjoyable and that educational.

Kudos

My hat is off to coordinating committee members Mark and Carla Malson, Parma, Idaho; Jeff and Kathi Creamer, Montrose, Colo.; Mark Nieslanik, Carbondale, Colo.; Mark and Abbie Nelson, Wilton, Calif.; and all the volunteers they rounded up to help host the 2005 NJAS.

Major kudos also need to go to the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Board, James Fisher, Shelia Stannard, the regional managers and the rest of the American Angus Association and Angus Productions Inc. (API) staff who worked to make the 2005 NJAS such a memorable event.

And to all the state groups that contributed to the event's success, the advisors, the parents, the judges, the interns ... Well, the list could go on indefinitely and still leave some deserving folks unnamed.

The fact of the matter is, it's a lot of hands. And you pulled off a truly great event that makes our organization stronger and our members more enthusiastic.

Similar circumstances

Likewise with the magazine, it took a lot of hands.

I am truly amazed each spring and fall with the amount of pages and the quality and accuracy of the materials that the Special Services Department coordinates. What you see in the magazine is a fraction of the material they produce.

Likewise, the editorial, advertising and Web crews have really put their shoulders to the wheel and made this one fly. With only the editor's pages at risk of making us late, you know it was a steady, enduring effort that was made possible with the added efforts of producers and sale managers, advertising agencies, freelancers and field editors. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you.

Switching gears

Once the project is done ... or almost done, in this case ... there's almost a feeling of loss. What now? They actually talk about novelists experiencing depression after they

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Intern farewell

The editorial team also wants to thank Jen Biser, our summer intern, for a huge summer. Jen came to us in between degrees. She graduated last May from Texas A&M University with degrees in ag journalism and animal science. The Maryland native will head to Stillwater, Okla., after this issue to pursue a master's degree in ag communications.



Jen Biser

We involved Jen right away in some of the most interesting aspects of the magazine business — like proofing the "Resource Edition." Because of our being shorthanded this summer while working on the largest *Angus Journal* ever (or at least in my tenure), we asked Jen to take on more of the normal proofing and production responsibilities of the magazine than many of our interns have been exposed to in the past. And, she pursued more production-oriented interviews and stories to complement the coverage of the National Junior Angus Show.

Jen, you've been a great asset to our team this summer. We hope we've given you a glimpse of the ag publishing industry that will help direct your career path.

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National conference approaches

Join the American Angus Association as we look into the beef industry's crystal ball at the 2005 National Angus Conference & Tour, "Show Me the Future." The event will kick off Tuesday, Sept. 27, with a "Back to the Basics" workshop conducted by Association staff. This workshop will familiarize producers with enhancements to Association programs and services. Keynote speaker Tom Field of Colorado State University will highlight the evening's dinner. A morning conference with some top industry experts will be featured Wednesday, Sept. 28.

The tour begins Wednesday afternoon with a stop in Saint Joseph, Mo., at the headquarters of the American Angus Association and Angus Productions Inc. (API). The Missouri Angus Association will host a second stop to showcase cattle and breeders from throughout the state. The final day of tours includes stops at both commercial and registered herds.

Purina Mills, LLC, is sponsoring this year's event as well as real-time coverage at www.angusjournal.com/nationalconference.

You won't want to miss this year's event! Make plans now to visit the Show-Me State to gaze into our crystal ball!

Registration — Conference and tour registration is \$100. Registration includes conference program, most meals and transportation for the tour. Online registration is available at www.angus.org, or refer to the conference insert in the July 2005 *Angus Journal*.

For more information or additional registration forms, contact Linda Campbell at (816) 383-5143 or lcampbell@angus.org.

finally finish a book they've been working on for a length of time. Maybe it's akin to that feeling you get after long awaiting the last calf of the season to be born, only to realize that once he's here your favorite part of the year is over.

Or maybe it's like reaching the summit of a mountain. Once you reach the summit, where do you turn?

When you work so hard and so focused on one goal, once it is achieved it takes a little mental readjustment to hop the track and move on to the next project.

But, lucky for us, there are plenty of projects to start.

With the sire summary that came out in July, it's time to plan matings for next winter.

The October *Angus Journal* and *Angus Beef Bulletin* are already under way. Stories and ads are already in-house and being prepped.

The NJAA Board and activities and junior activities staff have already attended the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference and are attending state fairs across the country.

And, plans for the next NJAS enter a new phase of immediacy. Mark your calendars for July 9-15, 2006, and plot your trip to Indianapolis, Ind., as "All Roads Lead to the '06 Show."

About the cover

As a fund-raising project for the 2006 NJAS in Indianapolis, the organizing

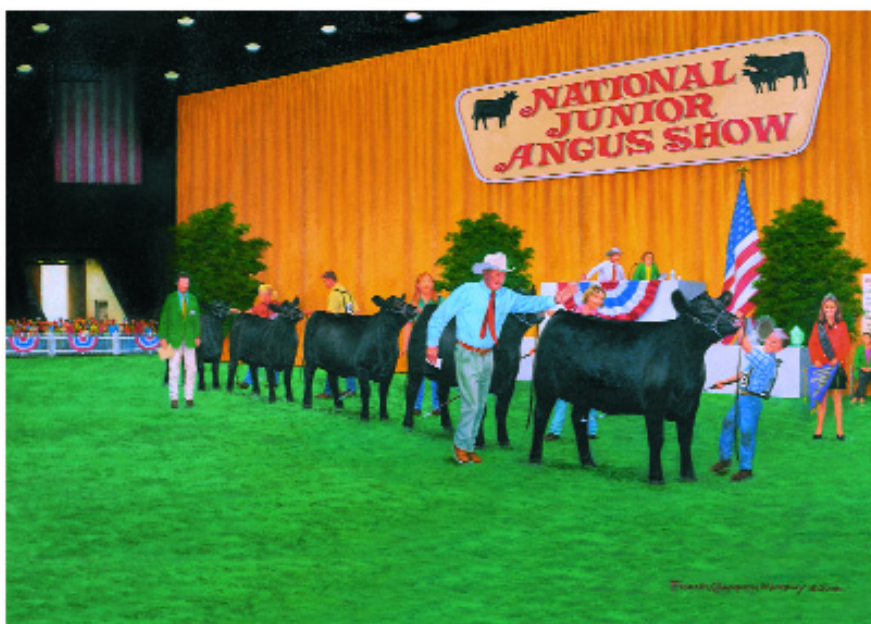
committee commissioned Frank Champion Murphy to paint the image that graces our cover this month.

"Champion!" is a 40×24-inch (in.) oil on canvas. A limited edition of 1,000 25×15-in. prints, signed and numbered by the artist, will be offered for sale beginning this fall.

The committee intends to auction the original artwork and selected prints at the Angus Reception Sunday evening, Nov. 13, during the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) in Louisville, Ky. The remainder of the prints will be available to order that evening and thereafter. Look for more details about this fund-raising project in the October *Angus Journal*.

Checks will be payable to the Angus Foundation, which will be responsible for handling and shipping the prints. For more information contact Sam Carter, chairman of the organizing committee, at (765) 998-7238 or cartersam@sbcglobal.net; or Cathy Watkins, committee secretary and project coordinator, at (765) 779-4007 or beaveridge@att.net.

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▶ Prints of Frank Champion Murphy's "Champion!" will be sold as a fund-raiser for the 2006 NJAS.