



# Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

## You can help with Katrina

*Sept. 11 stands out as a day we will long remember — one of those for which you recall what you were doing when you first learned the news of the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. Aug. 29 will be a little more ambiguous of a date, but not for lack of significance. Hurricane Katrina didn't surprise us; we heard and saw warnings several days in advance. But, Katrina did leave her mark, and her impact will perhaps touch more people for a longer period of time.*

### Remember the rural sector

That's not said to lessen the disaster of Sept. 11. It was surprising how most people quickly found out they knew an individual or a family who lost someone to the terrorist attacks.

We've seen the devastation in New Orleans, La., and Biloxi, Miss., and other cities in the area. The number of homes destroyed and families displaced for an extended time is truly overwhelming. We've seen fewer pictures in the rural areas, but we're slowly hearing reports of power outages and destroyed barns, fences and facilities in the rural sector.

While less visible to the public, and less likely to ask for help, the rural sector in the Gulf Coast states has been dealt a devastating blow.

### Help still needed

You'll read this column at least a month, nearly two, after Katrina came on land, but your generosity is needed no less now than then.

Cattlemen have stepped up to help bring

aid to rural residents of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama affected by the storm. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), state beef councils and state cattlemen's associations have organized ways cattlemen can help other cattlemen by volunteering or by donating cash and supplies for rebuilding, food and housing.

- Monetary contributions to the relief effort can be sent to the National Cattlemen's Foundation, Disaster Relief Fund, 9110 E. Nichols Ave., Suite 300, Centennial, CO 80112.
- The Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA) kicked off the Cattlemen's Katrina Fund with a \$25,000 donation to the American Red Cross. Contributions (payable to "Cattlemen's Katrina Fund") may be sent to TCFA, 5501 Interstate 40 West, Amarillo, TX 79106. Call (806) 358-3681 with any questions.
- The Mississippi Cattlemen's Association established an account through the Mississippi Cattlemen's Foundation to assist relief efforts for cattle producers

affected by Katrina. Donations marked "Katrina Relief" may be sent to 680 Monroe St., Jackson, MS 39202. Call (601) 354-8951 with any questions.

- The Louisiana Cattlemen's Foundation is accepting donations to purchase food for evacuees being housed and assisted at emergency shelters. Donations to this relief effort can be mailed to Louisiana Cattlemen's Foundation, 4921 Interstate 10 Frontage Rd., Port Allen, LA 70767. Call (225) 343-3491 for more information.

The crisis may not seem as immediate, but recovering from a disaster of this magnitude takes longer and is typically more costly than expected.

### Welcome, Meghan Soderstrom

Angus Productions Inc. (API) would like to introduce the newest member of our editorial team. Meghan Soderstrom is a June 2005 graduate of California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), San Luis Obispo. She has a bachelor's degree in agricultural science and a minor in agricultural communications.

Soderstrom was editor and art director for the *Ag Circle*, a quarterly publication serving Cal Poly's College of Agriculture. She served as a special-projects volunteer for the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau and as a marketing and public relations intern for the American Royal in Kansas City, Mo.

She joined our team in Saint Joseph, Mo., Sept. 22 as an assistant editor. Her duties will include writing, proofing and magazine production, as well as writing articles and representing the *Angus Journal* and the *Angus Beef Bulletin* at industry events. We hope you will join us in welcoming her to Team Angus.

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