



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Leaders in beef improvement gather in Bozeman

We're headed to Bozeman, Mont., June 1-4 for the 2011 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Meeting and Research Symposium. This will be the 10th year we have provided event coverage for the BIF symposium, which is my favorite of the year.

Visit BIF event site

Approximately 600 cattlemen, academia and allied industry representatives are expected to attend the event. Seedstock and commercial cow-calf producers, university specialists and breed association leaders will gather to explore innovative technologies and management practices to improve beef production for the benefit of seedstock and commercial producers.

Symposium sessions will explore the role of genetic evaluation technology in enhancing global competitiveness, using genetics to improve animal health, new traits in national cattle evaluation, and finding profitability amongst a toolbox full of genetic prediction tools.

BIF has six standing committees that will meet to discuss some of the most recent advancements in genetic evaluation and breed improvement. The committees include Cow Herd Efficiency; Live Animal, Carcass and End Point; Producer Applications; Genetic Prediction; Emerging Technologies; and Selection Decisions.

It takes two awards luncheons to acknowledge Seedstock and Commercial Producer of the Year nominees and winners, along with Pioneer, Ambassador and

Continuing Service award winners, Frank Baker and Roy Wallace scholarship winners, and graduate fellowship recipients.

Angus Productions Inc. (API) provides online coverage of the event at www.BIFconference.com. Visit the site now to review the schedule and honor rolls of past award winners. Visit the newsrooms of past years' coverage from the archive page.

During this year's meeting we will post summaries of the presentations, PowerPoint presentations and support materials provided by the authors; and audio files to download if you want to listen to a presentation. We'll also post announcements of the award winners and photo galleries from the tours.

BIF was formed more than 40 years ago as a means to standardize beef cattle performance programs and methodologies and to create greater awareness, acceptance and usage of these concepts of genetic improvement. BIF represents more than 40 state and national beef cattle associations, including the American Angus Association.

We appreciate BIF's full assistance and our sponsor's support in helping us bring you coverage of this meeting. This is the fifth year BioZyme Inc., through its significant gift to the Angus Foundation, has financially

supported our efforts to bring you one of the premier educational opportunities in the industry.

Joining us this summer

Traveling with us to Bozeman and joining our editorial team as an intern for the summer will be Kathleen "Katie" Gazda. The daughter of Carolyn and David Gazda, Athens, Ga., Katie is pursuing a bachelor's degree in ag communications at the University of Georgia with an expected graduation in May 2012.

Katie has grown up in the Angus business, owning and showing her own cattle with her family. She was a first-place Auxiliary Scholarship winner in 2008 and served as Miss American Angus in 2009. She received one of the Angus Foundation's top scholarships in both 2008 and 2009. Those honors were based on a junior career full of activities and leadership at the state and national level.

With her strong knowledge of the American Angus Association and its affiliated entities, we're looking forward to seeing the contribution Katie can make to the *Angus Journal* and our other information distribution vehicles.

We also welcome Brandi Kapfer to the API team. Brandi began an internship with the Web Services Department in early May. Brandi recently received a bachelor's degree in interactive digital media with a concentration in computer science from Northwest Missouri State University in Maryville, Mo.

Our Web Services Department is pursuing some exciting advancements that will help you market your herd. Look for more details this summer and fall.

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