



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

Keep your heads up

In showmanship, the lesson that made everything else fall into place was to hold that head up. That's not an easy thing to do for a half-pint trying to lead an 1,100-pound (lb.), heavy-headed heifer. But once you control that head and get it into position, the feet set right, the attitude changes, the heifer focuses on you instead of the crowd, and she pulls herself together to look her best for the judge. Attending to the other details of showmanship gets a whole lot easier.

The things you can't

Being on the road quite a bit this last month and seeing how scorched the crops and pastures are getting throughout much of the Midwest, then hearing predictions of \$10 corn and \$20 soybeans makes me cringe a little. The grass fire we saw driving back from Columbia, Mo., earlier this week was a miniature compared to what cattlemen are experiencing out west, but also a warning of how dangerous the situation is. There's a lot of kindling out there in cattle country. I don't know about you, but I held my breath through the July 4 holiday, hoping a firecracker wouldn't light up a disaster.

In reality, it's silly to waste time worrying about it. As the Serenity Prayer entreats ... "grant me the serenity to accept the things that can't be changed, the courage to change the things that can and the wisdom to know the difference."

We're not going to change the direction the wind blows, or when it's going to rain. But we can educate ourselves so we face the challenge of wintering cattle on short feed supplies in the best mindset possible. After all,

if we get our focus right, the rest will fall into position a little easier.

The things you can

While you can't make the grass grow, you can investigate options for feeding your herd, marketing strategies, pasture rental, drought management strategies and legislative action. We'll do our best to keep as many helpful resources in front of you as we can. I'll take this opportunity to inform you of some information resources you have available to you. In addition to the *Angus Journal*, we encourage you to subscribe to:

► **The Angus e-List.** This daily (or choose the weekly option) news feed delivered to your email inbox will inform you of the latest industry news, including upcoming meetings and events, the latest on the 2012 Farm Bill, news from the Angus world, and time-sensitive university and industry information. Subscribe at www.anguselist.com.

► Visit our topic and meeting sites. You can access them all easily through the API Virtual Library at www.api-virtuallibrary.com. There you will find topic sites specific to

managing your herd through drought, feeding and feedstuffs, beef cow efficiency and body condition scoring.

► Other resources in the API Virtual Library. Under the Angus Resources pull-down menu, you'll find links to back issue searches that will allow you to search more than 30 years of the *Angus Journal* by month or keyword. Access the American Angus Association and Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) newsrooms under the Angus Online pull-down menu. Visit the Calendar of Upcoming Events under the Meeting Sites pull-down.

► The *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA*. Delivered monthly by email, this electronic supplement to the *Angus Beef Bulletin* carries management, health and nutrition, marketing and news headlines targeted to the commercial producer but applicable to you as seedstock producers, as well.

► Follow @AJeditor and @ABBeditor on twitter. @AJeditor tweets will be more specific to our seedstock members, while @ABBeditor is directed to the commercial cattleman.

► Become a fan of our *Angus Journal* Facebook page. We continue to enhance this page and look forward to your comments. You'll enjoy the photo galleries of the Fan Favorite Photo Contest we hosted in July featuring the best of the National Junior Angus Association/*Angus Journal* Photo Contest. Also take note of the photo gallery featuring hair shedding scores.

As always, we'll strive through all of our publications — electronic and print — to connect you to information available from the Association and its entities and affiliates.

We love to hear from you, so send us your information needs (email below signature). We'll do our best to equip you to do the things you can.

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