



Angus Stakes

► by **Shauna Rose Hermel**, editor

A book full

Each trailer headed to Kansas City, Mo., for the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) carried with it a different story — first-generation Angus projects, fifth-generation showmen, flat tires, personal triumphs, family tradition, friendships established and friendships rekindled.

Side stories

We appreciate the luxury of a book this size to be able to bring you a few of those side stories that make the NJAS the meaningful event that it is. Though it may not seem like it to the contestant at the time, of far greater importance than the final placing is the story that surrounds it.

Consider the young boy whose family started in the Angus business less than 200 miles from and 25 years after George Grant brought those first legendary Angus bulls to Victoria, Kan. Family tragedy forced a dispersal of that herd, but Ross Wingert's father rekindled the Angus tradition, enabling Ross to show at his second junior national this year. See the story on page 217.

Then there's the story of three young girls from Illinois who teamed up successfully to show their marketing skills. Adding a fourth team member this year, they mustered a three-peat in the team sales competition. See the story on page 126.

Part of the purpose of the NJAS contests is to develop life skills for those youth willing to participate. Perhaps nowhere are those skills as readily apparent as in their own words.

Many of the winning creative writing (see page 149) and prepared speaking (page 138) entries would warrant being *Angus Journal* stories in their own right. With topics ranging from who or what sparked their interest in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) to the current cow inventory and its effect on the beef industry, their stories show the depth of interest and depth of knowledge youth in the Angus breed accumulate through their participation.

The story of attachment between young showmen and their show animals is a common thread in the barn. Though each has its own twist, they jointly show the affection and responsibility owners feel for the animals in their care. Brooke Haas and her family took that to another level, showing extreme perseverance in helping a heifer injured in a freak accident recuperate to stand in the ring in Kansas City (see page 78).

It was no accident that we coupled the NJAS coverage with the "Animal Care and Well-being" theme. To support our second theme, our writers have presented articles



ranging from general tips to improve cow well-being (252) to tips on cattle handling (257, 264) and facility design (260) to low-stress hoof trimming (262). While we didn't label them as part of the theme, the stories on building and maintaining a pond (247) and on evaluating hair-shedding patterns (242) could certainly fall under the animal well-being label.

Use the "Year in Review" beginning on page 315 to revisit the feature stories we published from August 2012 through August 2013. Combine them with a dozen columns each of "Vet Call," "Ridin' Herd" and "Angus Advisor" and the like, and it's a pretty information-packed offering. If you have a digital subscription, you can access complete issues online back to October 2012 — even if you just started your subscription last week. If you are not subscribed to the digital edition, you can subscribe online at www.angusjournal.com.

Don't take tick bites for granted

In May 2012, Troy Smith wrote an article on Q Fever, a rare disease carried by ticks. My family revisited that article recently as my dad was diagnosed with the disease and my brother was diagnosed with Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Testing of the entire family has revealed titers of Lyme disease, Q Fever, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and anaplasmosis.

These tick-borne diseases are easily treated if diagnosed in time, but they may not be as rare as once thought. If you have a question about a tick bite, err on the side of caution because without early treatment, the results can be serious. To learn more about tick-borne diseases, visit www.cdc.gov/ticks/diseases/.

EMAIL: shermel@angusjournal.com

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3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506; 1-800-821-5478; fax: 816-233-6575; office hours: (M-F) 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Central) home page: www.angusjournal.com

Staff are listed by name, phone extension and email prefix. All direct phone numbers are "816-383-5..."; all email addresses are "...@angusjournal.com"

General manager — Terry Cotton, 214, tcotton

Editorial Department — Editor, Shauna Rose Hermel, 270, shermel ■ Associate editor, Kasey Brown, 277, kbrown ■ Assistant editor, Linda Robbins, 245, lrobbins ■ Artists, Mary Black & Craig Simmons ■ Intern, Lynsey Meharg

Field editors — Barb Baylor Anderson, 305 Valley View Dr., Edwardsville, IL 62025, 618-656-0870, anderagcom@sbcglobal.net ■ Kindra Gordon, 11734 Weisman Rd., Whitewood, SD 57793, 605-722-7699, kindras@gordonresources.com ■ Kim Holt, 20079 Homedale Rd., Caldwell, ID 83607, 208-459-2013, kkholt1@msn.com ■ Becky Mills, Rt. 1, Box 414, Cuthbert, GA 31740, 229-732-6748, beckymills81@yahoo.com ■ Troy Smith, 44431 Sargent River Rd., Sargent, NE 68874, 308-527-3483, wordsmith@nctc.net

Publications and Production — Manager, LaVera Spire, 220, lspirer ■ **Advertising Department** — Advertising coordinators, Doneta Brown, 232, dbrown; & Karri Mildenerberger, 289, kmildenerberger ■ Production coordinator, Carol Beckett, 203, 226, cbeckett ■ Advertising artists, Mike Bush & Monica Ford ■ Proofreader coordinator, Jacque McGinness ■ **Circulation & billing manager** — LaVera Spire, 220, lspirer ■ **Special Services Department** — Coordinator, Sharon Mayes, 221, smayes ■ Assistants, Julie Martinez & Vickie Whitsell ■ Artists, Susan Bomar & Leann Pridgen ■ Proofreader, Melinda Cordell ■ **Web Services Department** — Web Services coordinators, Doneta Brown, 232, dbrown; & Karri Mildenerberger, 289, kmildenerberger ■ Web Services creative director, Tim Blumer ■ Web developer, Andy Blumer ■ **Photo Department** — Photo services coordinator, Kathrin Gresham ■ Photo services assistant, Erin Sherwood ■ **Network systems coordinator** — Bruce Buntin ■ **Board of Directors** — Gordon Stucky, chairman; Bryce Schumann, vice chairman; Terry Cotton, president; Richard Wilson, secretary-treasurer Charlie Boyd II; Scott Foster; John Elbert Harrell; Leo McDonnell; Jim Rentz; Chris Sankey

