



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

History in the making

By the time you receive this issue, the presidential election of 2008 will be in the books and a new administration will be taking shape in Washington. It didn't take long for the media to take up its role in floating out names for key positions.

Getting people involved

Ironically, the press may be the first to implement an official change due to our president-elect. In early November, *AP Stylebook* editors issued a change for referring to the president, namely "that the first and family name should be used on first reference to a current or former U.S. president or president-elect." That may be the smartest thing I've seen mainstream media do in the last six months.

The most striking thing to me about this election was how nonimportant agriculture was in the discussion. Granted, agriculture was not a strong suit for either candidate, and ag's fate will more likely be dictated by the people appointed to the new administration and their pull in the House and Senate.

We have our work cut out for us to make sure all issues are brought to light on subjects concerning agriculture. To be successful, we need to look beyond the effects visible from our backdoors. Agriculture affects every person who eats. There's not an individual in this country or abroad who isn't affected by

agriculture. We should have the strongest voice in politics.

But we have our work cut out for us, don't we? Agriculture will be front and center as the new administration comes into office. The UN has already asked President-elect Barack Obama for a summit on world hunger. Health care reformers will turn their eyes to the costs of obesity, cancer and other ailments — and how nutrition can play a role in preventing or mitigating their effects. Immigration discussions will affect agriculture. California's passage of Proposition 2 by a two-thirds majority should have all of our attentions.

It is critical ag's voice be heard — in Washington and in consumer living rooms. But we have to remember that an argumentative voice curtails discussion and closes minds. There is no greater way to be heard than to listen. If we understand other interests, if we understand the "lingo," we can explain agriculture's role in a manner that is more likely to be heard and understood.

Don't let Election Day be the last day you

cast your political opinion in the next four years. Help guide this administration from an informed, cooperative position.

On the road again

Your editorial team will be on the road again in early December to bring you online coverage of the Robert Taylor Memorial Symposium: Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle. The conference has a great lineup of speakers, with a program that will assist producers in improving reproductive efficiency. Visit www.appliedreprostrategies.com for online coverage.

Oversight oops

In the August 2008 issue of the *Angus Journal*, we published an honor roll of producers who had been named Seedstock Producers of the Year by the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF). We inadvertently overlooked a couple of co-winners. Nicholas Wehrmann and Richard McClung of Virginia were co-winners with Bob and Gloria Thomas of Oregon in 1997. Jack Cooper of Montana was a co-winner with Leslie Holden of Montana in 1975. Our apologies for the oversight. For the complete honor roll, visit the awards page at www.bifconference.com.

Merry Christmas

What a wonderful gift we have been given. As we enjoy the holiday spirit with friends and family near and far, may we remember the reason for the season and keep Christ in Christmas. Merry Christmas.

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