



# Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

## Interconnectedness

*As we head to Louisville, Ky., for the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), the weather is starting to allow folks to make some progress in the fields. My husband Todd generally goes back to Minnesota to help his family with corn and soybean harvest. His trip was delayed this year due to rains. The drier weather in late October-early November was welcome, but also frustrating as propane availability idled harvest and people in southern Minnesota started asking questions about a spring harvest.*

### Don't feed a problem

As we go to press, some states were making exceptions to the hour restrictions for propane haulers, trying to speed delivery and keep driers drying.

It's disconcerting to look at the influence on corn futures of a day of sunshine, a news report of gas shortages or rainfall in another country on the other side of the globe. Of course, corn and soybean futures affect calf prices, calf prices affect feeder-calf prices, and feeder-calf prices affect bull prices.

Farmers are hoping for exceptional yields or high prices (or both, of course). Cattlemen would prefer they get exceptional yields, but no one wants a crop rotting or sprouting in the field.

As with any situation, there will be challenges and opportunities. It'll be a good year to consult with your local feed and Extension resources to see if there are some "situational" opportunities for buying feedstuffs this winter.

The need for nutrient analysis and toxin

screening of feedstuffs would seem a no-brainer this year. Make sure you know what you are dealing with to avoid feeding your cattle a problem.

### Meetings this winter

Winter brings with it the opportunity to attend a wide range of educational or membership-driven meetings. Our industry calendar sports a host of them with links to more information about schedules, speakers, etc. The address is [www.api-virtuallibrary.com/meetings\\_other\\_calendar.html](http://www.api-virtuallibrary.com/meetings_other_calendar.html). You can get there by going to [www.api-virtuallibrary.com](http://www.api-virtuallibrary.com) and using the pull-down menu to go to "Other Industry Meetings," then "Calendar of Upcoming Events."

Two meetings for which we will be doing full online coverage are the Range Beef Cow Symposium in Casper, Wyo., Dec. 1-3, and the Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle (ARSBC), which will be Jan. 28-29 in conjunction with the Cattle Industry

Convention and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Trade Show in San Antonio, Texas. To access our coverage sites, which include pre- and post-event information, visit

- [www.rangebeefcow.com](http://www.rangebeefcow.com) and
- [www.appliedreprostrategies.com](http://www.appliedreprostrategies.com).

For schedule and registration information for the Cattle Industry Convention, visit NCBA's web site.

- [www.beefusa.com](http://www.beefusa.com).

We'll provide post-event coverage from the Cattle Industry Convention on [www.angus.org](http://www.angus.org), then archive it to [www.4cattlemen.com](http://www.4cattlemen.com).

Of course, for all three events and those listed in the Virtual Library, there's nothing like being there. We hope you can attend and represent your herd and the Angus breed. The meeting organizers have gone to great lengths to create informative and useful programs to help you manage your herds. And the opportunity to cuss and discuss issues and technologies with fellow producers to gain a broader understanding is priceless.

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