



# Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

## A national day to treasure

*As this page goes to press, we will be on our way to Louisville for Angus events at the North American International Livestock Exposition, followed soon after by Thanksgiving and the Range Beef Cow Symposium in Mitchell, Neb. We truly have much to be thankful for during this season — faith, friends, family and a livelihood that allows those blessings to intertwine.*

### In the midst of war

As promised in the November issue, I wanted to share another president's "Proclamation of Thanksgiving" (available online at <http://bit.ly/n2Evcv>). While states celebrated days of thanksgiving independently, at the request of Sarah Josepha Hale, a 74-year-old editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*, President Abraham Lincoln called for a national day of Thanksgiving in 1863, amidst the Civil War, hoping to unite a nation. Penned by William Seward and signed by Lincoln in 1863, the proclamation holds:

*The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their*

*aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theatre of military conflict; while that theatre has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defence, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit*

*and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquillity and Union.*

### RBCS coverage online

We will be providing online coverage of the 2011 Range Beef Cow Symposium at [www.rangebeefcow.com](http://www.rangebeefcow.com). LiveAuctions.tv is sponsoring our site this year and will provide live streaming video from the conference Nov. 29-Dec. 1, as well as audio uploads after. Troy, Kindra, Kasey and I will be uploading summaries of the talks, along with PowerPoint presentations and proceedings papers. Follow @AJeditor on Twitter or like [facebook.com/AngusJournal](https://www.facebook.com/AngusJournal) for updates from Kasey and me.

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