



# Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

## Success is seldom accidental

*New city, new stage, new name, new speakers, new challenges ... There was a lot of "new" attached to the 2016 Angus Convention hosted Nov. 5-7 in Indianapolis, Ind. Yet there was also a lot of familiarity — friends we've known for years, intriguing hallway debates and midnight brainstorming sessions.*

### Staying power

When you consider the average lifespan of a registered seedstock operation is seven years, it's truly an accomplishment to celebrate one of our members reaching the milestone of being in business for 100 years. My hat is off to Thomas-Criswell Angus of New Bloomfield, Mo., for doing just that, building their Angus herd through now the sixth generation (see pages 96 and 106) of ownership.

While an achievement, it is not an isolated occurrence. Angus members have staying power. A lot of that goes back to the inherent traits of the breed itself — traits like efficiency, mothering ability, calving ease and consumer acceptability.

As CEO Allen Moczygemba pointed out in his opening remarks at the convention, a lot of that stayability rests in the mind trust of breed leaders (see "It's Our Turn," beginning on page 76). From the decision George Grant made to bring Angus bulls to Kansas, to

advancing genomic-enhanced expected progeny differences (EPDs), that leadership, he noted, has been visionary in making the "right decision at the right time" to position the membership and the breed for future growth.

That vision and the resulting programs and services are a tribute to our membership's awareness, adaptability and desire to excel. It's the willingness of nearly 2,000 folks to participate in the educational, social and business aspects of our annual gathering. Participation is a fundamental requirement of understanding and successfully navigating your business environment so that you can take on the challenge — taking your turn at making the right decisions at the right time to propel the Angus breed forward.

The Board has taken the next step in positioning the breed for the future by adopting the 2016 Long-Range Strategic Plan

unveiled during the Annual Convention of Delegates Nov. 7 (see "Facing the Future, Strategically," beginning on page 44.

### Angus Across America

Each year we establish an editorial calendar specifying themes for each month of the *Angus Journal*. As you might expect, this issue carries the Angus Convention as its theme.

We're taking another angle this year, adding a theme for the entire year — Angus Across America — to highlight the adaptability of the Angus breed to a multitude of environments and purposes. We'll highlight stories showing how Angus cattle fit into their production environment and marketing end point.

This month we feature herds in four states — California, Missouri, Montana and Oklahoma. Look for the Angus Across America logo and enjoy these articles celebrating the breed's diversity and its versatility.



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