



Angus Stakes

► by *Shauna Rose Hermel*, editor

On the road again

This summer is shaping up to be quite an adventure, with several pivotal events on the radar. Of course, our attendance at these events is twofold — to meet and visit with as many of you as we can and to bring home material to share.

BIF meeting

We start by heading to Lincoln, Neb., for the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) annual meeting June 18-21. Access our online coverage at www.bifconference.com.

Hosted by the University of Nebraska—Lincoln; the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center (USMARC) at Clay Center, Neb.; and the Nebraska Cattlemen, this year's meeting will focus on management and genetic strategies to improve hard-to-measure, but economically relevant, traits, says program coordinator and UNL Associate Professor Matt Spangler. Thursday will focus on the cow herd; Friday will focus on the feedlot.

Coverage at www.bifconference.com includes summaries and audio of the speakers' presentations, PowerPoint and proceedings papers where available, announcements of award winners and photo galleries of Saturday's tour.

Beef Leaders Institute

We'll help the American Angus Association host the Beef Leaders Institute (BLI) June 23-26. Designed for members

25-45 years old, BLI will provide insight into the beef industry while enhancing knowledge of the Association and strengthening leadership skills. The program begins with sessions at Association headquarters in Saint Joseph, followed by a three-day tour covering all industry segments.

Junior show mid-July

The biggest Angus event of the summer, the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) is July 6-12 in Indianapolis, Ind. If you've never been to one, I really encourage you to attend — even if you don't have children of age to participate. It is the largest gathering of Angus breeders we have each year, and the Indiana folks shine when it comes to hospitality! Check the schedule at www.njas.info/schedule.html to find some contests that interest you and let our juniors amaze you.

It will also be your first chance to meet many of the new regional managers (see "Personnel Changes," page 32, and "Regional Managers," page 100). As much as I miss those not with us, this new crew is a great group, and they share a mission to help you

promote your herd and get the most out of your Association membership. I hope you'll welcome them enthusiastically.

Boot Camp

Open to all cattlemen, Boot Camp is July 14-15 at the University of Missouri—Columbia. Hosted by the university and the Association, the day-and-a-half educational session will include speakers and hands-on opportunities. With financial support of the Angus Foundation, this boot camp will cover topics of bull selection, genomically enhanced expected progeny differences (GE-EPDs), antibiotic labeling, reproductive strategies, etc. If you're reading our digital version, you may still have time to register (visit www.angusonline.org/event/bootcampmain.aspx) by the June 27 deadline. Watch the *Journal* for announcements of similar boot camps in other locations.

Focusing on Beef Cattle Welfare

Iowa State University will host the 4th International Symposium on Beef Cattle Welfare (ISBCW) in Ames July 16-18. Topics range from defining what beef cattle welfare is to why we should care to improving immunity. You'll find the schedule at <http://bit.ly/1pT1mch>.

We will be providing coverage of the event online at www.api-virtuallibrary.com/meetings_other_news.html and in future editions of the *Angus Journal*. Go to the site now for coverage of previous symposia.

That gets us through mid-July. Hope we see you along the way.

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