



# Angus Stakes

► by **Shauna Rose Hermel**, editor

## Preparing for herd expansion

*More people, higher income levels and greater demand for high-quality beef are setting the stage for a profitable future for cow-calf producers in the next few years, noted several speakers at this year's Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Annual Convention in Biloxi, Miss., June 9-12.*

### Female focus

An organization of organizations, BIF has a reputation for bringing together the thought leaders in academia, industry and production to cuss and discuss beef cattle breeding and selection. It has fostered uniformity in national cattle evaluation procedures and offers a peer-review process for critiquing current programs and services while envisioning the next generation of breed improvement tools.

With the decline in the herd beginning to turn around, this year's BIF convention focused on rebuilding the cow herd. The first day's general session focused on consumer, societal and economic forces affecting female selection, while the committee breakouts focused on more technical aspects of genetic selection — from collection of reproductive traits in heifers to how whole-genome sequencing will affect selection decisions.

Day 2's general session focused on female selection, with discussion of cow lifetime

productivity, adaptability, and balancing novel with proven means of female selection. Committee breakouts covered feed intake guidelines, water intake, commercial phenotyping, heterosis, new options for performing national cattle evaluation, across-breed expected progeny differences (AB-EPD) and multibreed evaluations.

It's a lot to soak in, but well worth the time and effort to do so as you formulate goals for your herd and help direct your Association in the future. While the conference is over, the presentations are still available for you to review at [www.BIFconference.com](http://www.BIFconference.com). Visit the Newsroom to peruse the summaries; listen to the audio with speaker PowerPoint presentations in hand; and study the proceedings, including the research papers of the Frank H. Baker Memorial Scholarship winners.

If you're not familiar with BIF, highlights of the Young Producer Symposium offer a great resource for getting to know the

organization and its contribution to breed improvement.

### Congratulations

More details will have to wait till the August issue, but we did want to recognize the award winners at this year's event. Congratulations to McCurry Angus Ranch of Burrton, Kan., for winning BIF Seedstock Producer of the Year and to Woodbury Farms, Quenemo, Kan., for taking home the BIF Commercial Producer of the Year honors.

Paul Genho, president of Farmland Reserve Inc., Salt Lake City, Utah, and Tom Woodward of Broseco Ranch, Decatur, Texas, were recognized with the Pioneer Award. Andy Boston, Purdue University Extension; Joe Cassady, South Dakota State University; Lois Schreiner, Kansas State University; and Chris Shivers, American Brahman Breeders Association, were recognized with Continuing Service Awards. E.C. Larkin of the *Gulf Coast Cattlemen* was presented the Ambassador Award.

Jamie Parham of South Dakota State University and Justin Buchanan of Oklahoma State University earned Frank H. Baker Memorial Scholarships.

Receiving Roy Wallace BIF Memorial Scholarships were Matthew McIntosh, University of Connecticut, undergraduate winner; and Joshua Hasty, Colorado State University, graduate student winner.

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## Angus Journal

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