"From December to March, there are for many of us three gardens:

- the garden outdoors,
- the garden of pots and bowls in the house, and
- the garden of the mind's eye."

— Katherine S. White

Gardening time!

The cold winter days of February will soon give way to sunshine and warmer temperatures. For me, February signals the start of qardening. It's time to spread fertilizer (in our case, it's the composted manure from the cattle barn), till the soil and prepare the beds. By the end of the month, we'll have several rows of onions planted. Although gardening takes lots of patience, hard work, dedication and a generous amount of moisture, the result can be a bountiful harvest of tasty vegetables and beautiful flowers.

Cultivating, nurturing

Just as we tend to gardens of vegetables and flowers, so do we tend to our gardens of Angus juniors. Working with young people

takes patience, hard work and dedication, too. Occasionally, these juniors need encouragement, just like the plants in our garden. A pat on the back or a "good job" can go a long way to encouraging an Angus enthusiast.

You don't have to have a "green thumb" to grow our Angus breed and heritage, you just have to care and have a love of the breed. It is our responsibility as adults to take these young Angus breeders and cultivate them into tomorrow's leaders, whether in our family, industry or country.

Auxiliary offerings

Looking for that perfect gift for Valentine's Day, anniversary, retirement, or customer appreciation? Look no further

than the American Angus Auxiliary website, www.angussalebarn.com. The Angus Gift Barn features a variety of gifts and unique items, including wine glasses that would

make the perfect Valentine's Day gift. Carol Wojciechowski, Angus Gift Barn chairman, is happy to help you select the perfect gift for your special person.

The "Gift that Sizzles" features Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) gift boxes from Scavucco's and S&S Meat Co. The CAB gift box selections include beef patties, filet

mignon, strip steak, top sirloin steak and ribeve steak.

Montana artist Harvey Rattey has teamed up with the American Angus Auxiliary to offer his sculptures of Angus cattle. Harvey's show heifer and cow-calf designs are exclusive pieces for the Auxiliary.

Proceeds from these projects benefit the

Auxiliary educational outreach and scholarship program.

Scholarship application available

Graduating high school seniors take note that the Auxiliary scholarship application, directions, and score sheet are available on the Auxiliary website, www.angusauxiliary.com. Angus juniors should follow their state guidelines for their state competition. Each state may submit one boy and one girl applicant for the national competition.

Ten scholarships — five boys and five girls - will be awarded at the 2011 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) in July. If you have questions about the Auxiliary scholarship, contact your state scholarship chairperson or national scholarship chairwoman Anne Lampe at alampe@ wbsnet.org or 620-872-3915.

Spring executive meeting

Later this month, the Auxiliary officers, directors and committee chairwomen will gather at the American Angus Association headquarters for their annual spring executive meeting. We will tend to "the garden" of Auxiliary topics, including fundraising, membership and the Futurity Heifer project.

Since February is "Plant the Seeds of Greatness Month," I encourage each of you to plant, water, cultivate and nurture the Angus breed and its people. The bountiful harvest we reap will ensure the continued success of the Angus breed for years to come!

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