

Gift of the Horse

The Auxiliary raises \$11,000 during the National Western Stock Show to support Angus youth.

The American Angus Auxiliary's fundraising initiative, "The Gift of the Horse," raised \$11,000 from the sale of SF Blue Sky McMaxill, a 2-year-old Blue Roan Quarter Horse known as "Blue" and donated by the Spader Family, Rosendale, Mo.

Angus supporters, L. Tucker and Vickie Link, Kiamichi Link Ranch, Finley, Okla., purchased "Blue" during a special portion of the Trowbridge Family and Friends Invitational Angus Sale held in conjunction with the 2009 NWSS in Denver, Colo. Scott and Kathy Ledbetter, Lone Oaks Farm, Middleton, Tenn., were the contending bidders. "The money generated from the sale of Blue will be used to benefit the Auxiliary scholarship fund," Auxiliary President Michelle Rieff says. "This generous contribution will help ensure the future of Angus and Angus youth," she adds.

This distinct fundraising endeavor highlights the contributions of Angus enthusiasts to support the future of the breed

and National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members in particular. Tucker Link is quick to point out that the ranch's contribution is, "only a small portion of the project."

Link notes that providing scholarship and



►The auction of "Blue" raised \$11,000 for the American Angus Auxiliary's scholarship fund. Sheri Spader (right) and family of Rosendale, Mo., donated the Quarter Horse, and Rich Masoner and family, DeKalb, Mo., trained him.

awards opportunities for junior Angus members is the most important part of this fundraiser. He humbly acknowledges the creation of such opportunities is primarily due to the Spaders' generous gift and the combined support of all involved with the project. Rieff also notes the momentum for this unique fundraiser.

"Because of the Auxiliary's relationship with the Spader family, this fundraising project was extra, extra special. The Spaders have deep roots with the Angus family," Rieff says.

Those deep roots created additional avenues of generosity from many Angus supporters. "This project was an opportunity for many Angus supporters to work together as a team. It was amazing to watch the project develop and to see all the excitement that existed around 'Blue,'" Rieff remarks. In addition to the generosity of the Links and the Spader family, the time and services given by Angus supporters, including Rich Masoner, Rhonda McCurry, Jerry Lehmann, Stuart Wilson, Phil Trowbridge, Auxiliary members and other Angus friends, ensure "The Gift of the Horse" is one that will continually give.

For more information about the American Angus Auxiliary, visit www.angusauxiliary.com.

