



Editor's Mailbox

► Readers' viewpoints submitted to our staff

ARSBC coverage praise

I've been reading and trying to digest all the material you presented in the sections from the Applied Reproductive Strategies Symposium. Excellent idea to include this information in the *Journal*, and you did a great job of bringing the essence of the seminars to your readers. I like the way you added links to the presentations and PowerPoint slides. My only problem is that I can't understand and remember all of it.

I like the new online version of the *Journal*, as well. Although I still like the printed version when I really want to read something intently, the e-version gets the news out to the readers considerably faster.

I'm always amazed at all the new and good ideas that you all come up with out at American Angus.

— Jerry Gustin, Gustin Land & Cattle, Gloucester, Va.

Editor's Note: Thanks for the compliments, Jerry. The Applied Reproductive Strategies in Beef Cattle Symposium is a great meeting. It always provides a good combination of practical tips for management of reproduction and cutting-edge technology. We hope readers are aware that they can listen to the presentations, and access the summaries and the proceedings at www.appliedreprostrategies.com in the newsroom for the 2012 meeting. Those reading the digital version can follow the links.

Angus success story

At the end of 2011, I decided I wanted to try doing a 4-H Market Steer. Once my parents finally agreed, I called my uncles Gene and Cart Edsell, Edsell Farm, Stevensville Pa., and asked if they would sell me a young steer to raise. In October we went and got him, and I took him to my grandparents' farm. He weighed 570 pounds (lb.) when I got him in October. He was very stubborn and it was difficult at first, but it got easier to work with him as time went on.

In March of 2012, he stepped on my foot, crushed the growth plate and fractured my foot. It took a while before I could work with him again, and I really thought I wasn't going to do well at fair.

Finally, when I was healed, I started working with him again. In August of 2012, it was fair time. I had never showed a steer or beef animal of any kind at the fair, so it was a different experience taking him and washing/clipping him. Learning to show him was also something new.

At the fair, he weighed in at 1,366 lb. Everyone was shocked; he was the heaviest steer at fair. Since I was in the heavyweight class, I went up last with my steer. It took the judge a good while to pick one out, and she asked me three times how much my steer weighed. She kept coming back to me, and finally she got on the microphone and said I got first place.

I got to stay in the ring and they brought back the first-place winners from the lightweight and medium-weight classes — second-place winners stayed ringside. Again, she asked me how much my steer weighed, and, finally, she once again got on the microphone and said that there are some nice steers out here, and she was going to shake the grand champion's hand. That was my steer. I don't think I've ever heard more cheers or saw as many tears as I did that day. I won grand champion and everyone was happy for me. I stood there holding my steer trying to keep from crying, but I couldn't. The judge picked out the reserve grand champion, we got some pictures and I took my steer back to his pen area. There were many hugs and tears. It was a wonderful day.

My name is Reganne Whalen, I'm 15 years old and this is the story about my steer Eddie.

Thank you,

— Reganne Whalen

Editor's Note: Thank you for sharing your story with us. I'm glad your injury didn't stop you from following through on showing your steer. As pointed out in our postcard from an NJAA director in "Next Generation" (see page 34), junior members can learn a host of valuable life lessons preparing and showing cattle, and many of the people you meet along the way will be friends for a lifetime. Good luck with next year's show project.

Cover photo contestant

I just wanted to send you a copy of our March 25, 2013, bull sale front cover. It is another picture I took earlier. I can't wait to get our copy of the *Angus Journal* to see all the pictures and the front cover. I thank you for liking one of mine and using it.

Once again, thanks, and have a blessed day,

— Cathy Davis, Iron Mountain Cattle Co. Belle Fourche, S.D.

Editor's Note: Cathy said that even though her photo wasn't chosen for the cover of the *Angus Journal*, they were able to use another of her photos for their sale book cover.

Special edition of Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA

Thank you for this overview of the convention — a great idea! Especially helpful for those who can't/don't attend.

— Marney Caldwell

Editor's Note: Marney is referring to the February edition of the *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA*, in which we featured our coverage of the 2013 Cattle Industry Convention. The EXTRA is intended to be a supplement to the *Angus Beef Bulletin* and is targeted to commercial cattlemen using Angus genetics. It does contain a wealth of information on management, health and nutrition, marketing and industry issues. Few articles overlap that of the *Angus Journal*. You can sign up at www.angusbeefbulletin.com.

Winter pictures

Hello, my name is Jennifer Bean from the Shangri La Ranch in Sheldon, Mo. I wanted to submit a photo to the *Angus Journal* if you needed one to use for anything. It's a little



peculiar, but kind of funny, too. Enjoy, I just took it this morning.

Warm Regards,

— Jennifer Bean

Morgan Scharpe, granddaughter of Jim and Myrna Scharpe, woke up on one of the coldest mornings in Minnesota to find a newborn calf warming on the kitchen floor.



She thought she would keep it company.

Thank you,

— Jim Scharpe



