



Foundation Fundamentals

► by *Milford Jenkins, Angus Foundation*

Holiday thankfulness

One of my favorite times of the year, as I expect it is also for you, is the holiday season and the sense of awe and wonderment that comes with Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year. Ah, the cherished memories of many Christmases past spent at my grandparents' homes with cousins, aunts and uncles, and my parents and brother at our house! As my life has progressed, Christmas memories with my wife, Peggy, and our daughter, Dallas, began, in addition to memories made with Peggy's side of the family through the years.

Comfort and sacrifice

Let us be mindful that the holidays can also be difficult for families as they continue to comfort and encourage each other on the first Christmas after the passing of a loved one who, for the first time, won't be sitting at their normal place at the holiday table. We pray those families are able to find the peace they're looking for and fondly remember the fun times, laughter and joy that person brought to their lives.

It's a time also when a parent or a child wearing one of our armed services uniforms stationed halfway around the world is courageously and voluntarily placing his or her life in peril, so that we can live in a free country like our United States of America,

and our families can freely gather for Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ without fear of persecution.

Anticipation and reflection

It's a time of excitement and anticipation, especially for young children, who, after waiting for what seems like forever, finally get to unwrap those gifts bearing their names under the Christmas tree as smiling parents, grandparents and great-grandparents watch with joy-filled hearts to see the next generation of the family growing up and getting ready to take their place in the circle of life.

It's a time when families gather to enjoy warm fellowship, break bread with each

other, reflect on the past year's events, and share hopes, aspirations and dreams for the year ahead soon to be unveiled.

It's a time when we as farm and ranch families gather to give thanks for the many blessings received during the year. Record-setting bin-buster grain crops, fruitful Angus production sales, promising spring or fall calf crops by a new addition to the herd-sire lineup, and ideal weather conditions for planting or harvesting are just a few that come to mind that give us that sense of reward and accomplishment.

It's a time when each of us, in our own personal way, reflect on the things that are the most important in our lives, such as God, family, and having the freedoms and liberties that we have in this country to do the things we enjoy, like farming and ranching, and raising registered-Angus cattle.

Appreciation and reward

Lastly, it's a time to say thank you to those who have helped you along the way. On behalf of the Angus Foundation Board of Directors and staff, I want to convey our genuine appreciation to you for the financial support and help that you provided to our organization during this past year.

Without you, the achievements and accomplishments featured in the *Lighting the Way 2014 Angus Foundation Annual Report* enclosed in this issue would not be possible. It's my hope that as you read it, you will glean a sense of reward in seeing the fruits of your labors and that of those before us. Just as with the holidays, as you read you will feel a sense of awe and wonderment as to what we can achieve together for the benefit of the Angus breed this next year with each of us doing our part.

May God bless your family with a joyous holiday season and a prosperous 2015!

EMAIL: mjenkins@angusfoundation.org

Author's Note: *Milford Jenkins is president of the Angus Foundation. Visit www.angusfoundation.org for more information regarding the Angus Foundation.*