

# Make the Bed

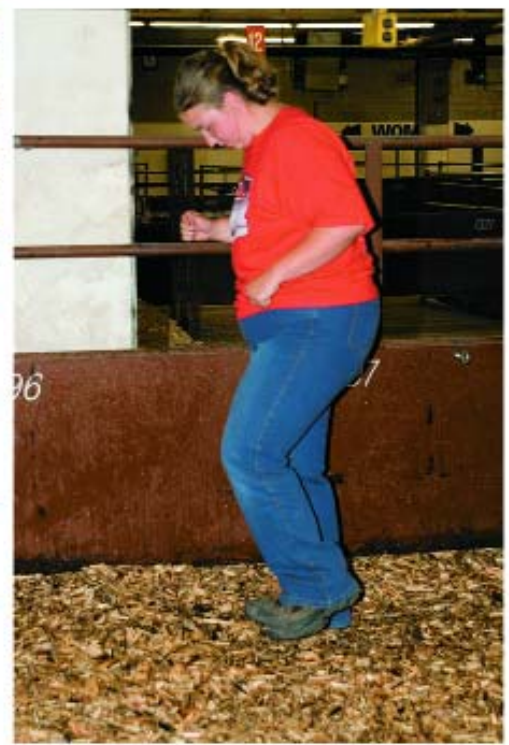
Here are some simple steps to creating a useful and aesthetically pleasing stall.

Story & photos by *Shelia Stannard*

**W**hile the summer show season may be wrapping up, Angus exhibitors will be soon be heading to state fairs and other fall shows and expos. Having a stall that is useful, safe and eye-appealing begins before the cattle ever get off the trailer. Here are some useful tips for creating a stall that the exhibitor, cattle and spectators will appreciate.

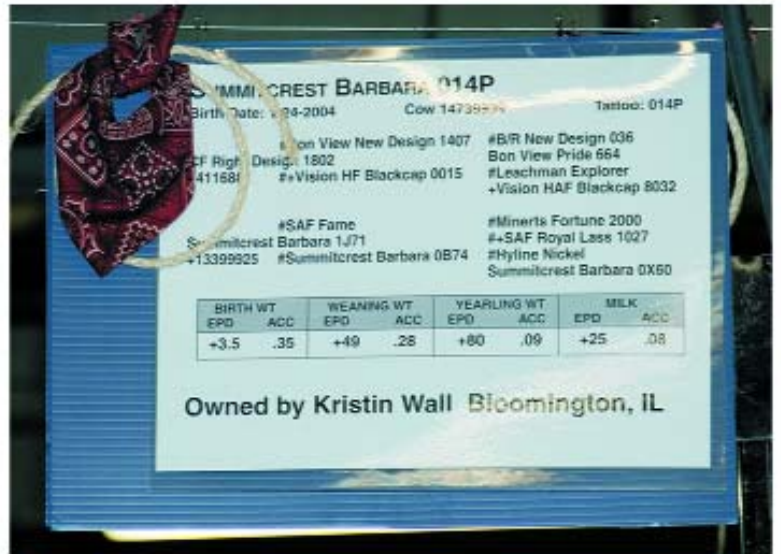


► **This page:** Most stalls are bedded with wood chips or shavings, sand or straw. Start by leveling the bedding, wetting it down and packing it. A rubber mat at the front of the bed will add comfort to the animals standing in the stalls, and will prevent the cattle from pawing and digging up the bedding, thus keeping the stalls neater.





► **Above:** If your electrical outlets are against the wall or in an alley at the front of your stalls, you can bury an extension cord under the bedding, so that you can access electricity for your blowers, fans and clippers. **Below:** Digging a trench and burying the cord prevents tripping for both people and animals.



► **Above:** Stall cards are an important information tool, as many spectators and fellow exhibitors use them as a guide to the pedigree and performance information for a given animal. Some people write out their stall cards, while others use stickers on a permanent plastic board. For a fee, Angus Productions Inc. (API) will print and laminate stall cards like the one shown here. They can include a variety of information. Many exhibitors will use decorations for their stall cards to promote the theme of the show or their own farm or ranch theme.



► **Left & below:** Some facilities don't always have an ideal place to hang stall cards, so wire must be strung. Use caution when climbing on rails to string wire, and make sure you have someone assisting you from ground level. Use a wire that is strong enough not to sag and that can support the weight of your signs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 244



► Some commonly used items you'll want to be sure to have include rubber mats, a pitchfork, a broom and a hose.





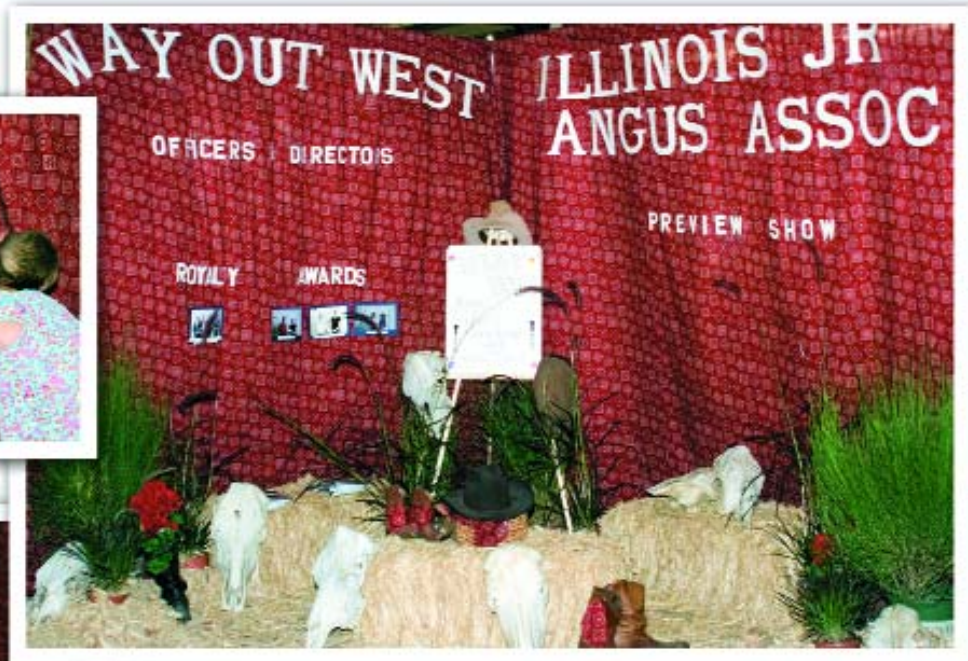
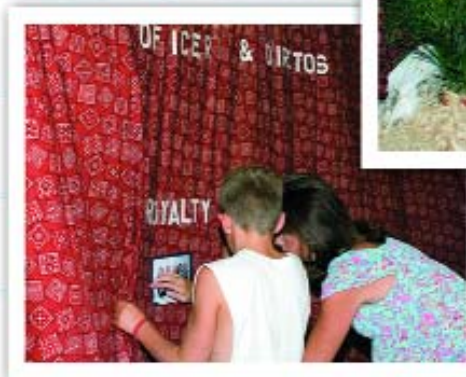
► **Above:** Some individuals or groups like to hang curtains to distinguish where their stalls are located. Be sure to hang these before the cattle are stalled to prevent spooking an animal, and use more than one person to make the task more efficient.



► **Above:** Many groups create displays near their stalls, using everything from curtains to photos and handmade cutouts.



► **Right:** A rack to hold brooms, pitchforks and shovels is a good way to keep items accessible and neatly contained. Keep one at either end of your stall for convenience.



► **Left & above:** A display to promote your farm, ranch or state Association is always a nice idea. Make sure you have someone to help create the display and that none of the items in the display can harm people or cattle.

► **Below:** Once your stalls are made, your display is in place and your cattle are tied in, continue to monitor stalls and aisles. Work together to keep aisles clean of bedding and manure. Make sure to take debris to the show's designated dumping area.



► **Above:** A simple white eraser board or daily calendar is a nice way to communicate with your family, state or show crew, especially if showing multiple species or participating in other events. Be sure to locate the board in a tack area so that it doesn't interfere when you are working with your animals.

