

Auxiliary Announces Officers

Story & photo by **Anne Trenholm**

Members of the American Angus Auxiliary recently elected the organization's executive leadership team for 2008. The four officers were elected Nov. 10, 2007, during the Auxiliary's annual meeting in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE), in Louisville, Ky.

Serving as Auxiliary president for 2008 is Nancy Thelen. Thelen and her husband, Steve, reside in Saline, Mich., and have two daughters, Julie and Renee.

President-elect is Michelle Rieff. Rieff and her husband, Kevin, live in Bentonville, Ark. They have one daughter, Haley.

Fulfilling the role of secretary-treasurer is Kathi Creamer. Creamer and her husband, Jeff, reside in Montrose, Colo. They have two children, Brandon and Britney.

Auxiliary advisor is the immediate past-president, Mary Greiman. Greiman and her husband, Ted, reside in Garner, Iowa, along with their two boys, Kyle and Cole.

The executive leadership typically serves for a total of four years as an Auxiliary officer, serving first as secretary-treasurer, then president-elect, president and advisor.

All four officers are actively involved with the Angus breed. Their commitment to Angus includes involvement with their family's Angus operations, local and national Angus associations, and a strong support of youth, particularly National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members.

Focus for 2008

The newly elected officers will combine their talents to fulfill the purpose of the Auxiliary, which is recognized for its continued support of youth, as well as the Angus breed. Specifically, this year's executive leadership will focus on

promoting youth scholarship and award programs through member outreach and new fundraising initiatives.

"A key focus this year will be to work as a team to develop and implement a regional directors program for the Auxiliary," Thelen says, noting that such a program will help to expand the membership of the Auxiliary and result in sustained support of youth. In addition to membership outreach and development, the Auxiliary will continue its support of youth through scholarship programs.

"We are very fortunate to have a unique fundraising opportunity that will contribute to our goal of raising \$12,000 in scholarship money," Rieff says. This year, former Auxiliary officer Sheri Spader will be donating a horse in memory of Richard L. Spader, past American Angus Association executive vice president. The horse will be sold in the coming year, with proceeds going to the Auxiliary's scholarship programs. "One of my goals as chair of the scholarship committee will be to focus on developing this project," Rieff says.

This year's executive leadership will continue to bring enthusiasm to the Auxiliary's existing programs, such as Miss American Angus, the All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Cook-Off, and the Silver Pitcher, Crystal and Achievement awards. Greiman plans to use her past experiences in all of the Auxiliary's executive leadership positions to help her fellow officers continue to improve upon the success of Auxiliary programs, while also ensuring that the projects are fun.

"This will be a fun year," Greiman says. "I'm looking forward to it, especially the exciting fundraising projects." Creamer, who is the newest addition to the leadership cabinet, is also enthusiastic about the upcoming year.

"I'm excited to help out with all of these Auxiliary programs and learn more," Creamer says. "I think it will be enjoyable to work on all of our projects, and I hope to help gain more members."

The American Angus Auxiliary consists of individuals interested in the welfare of the Angus breed. Its members work to provide educational activities for junior Angus members, such as scholarship programs, awards and competitions. For more information about the American Angus Auxiliary, visit www.angusauxiliary.com.

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► Elected to serve as American Angus Auxiliary officers are (from left) **Mary Greiman**, Garner, Iowa, advisor; **Nancy Thelen**, Saline, Mich., president; **Michelle Rieff**, Bentonville, Ark., president-elect; and **Kathi Creamer**, Montrose, Colo., secretary-treasurer.