



Auxiliary Notes

► by *Shirley Williams, president, American Angus Auxiliary*

Letting go

It was the “father of positive thinking,” Dale Carnegie, who said, “The person who gets the farthest is generally the one who is willing to do and dare.”

The pressure mounts

I recently found myself smack-dab in the middle of an experience that required, from me, some real daring! It wasn't mountain climbing or sky diving or even eating an icky insect on reality TV. Actually, it was a rather routine encounter for people who breed and raise purebred livestock — offering cattle for sale in an auction.

I had the good fortune to be invited to offer original females from my breeding program as a featured unit in one of the most highly promoted Angus offerings of the season. Though I've sold quite a few cattle privately and a few here and there in consignment sales, this was the first time my cattle and my prefix were publicly touted in a production sale. And, to increase the intensity of my pressure, in the introduction to my lots my friends also promoted that I currently serve as president of our national Auxiliary!

Questions with no answers

Over and over I asked myself, “Are my cows good enough? Are they carrying enough flesh? Are their pedigrees current

enough? Are the calves a complement to their dams? Did I choose the right sires for the artificial insemination (AI) matings?”

It is very comforting to be under someone else's umbrella for a first experience. And, believe me, as I brooded over the sale-day forecast of torrential thunderstorms, I was glad to take shelter from my anxious thoughts with friends who have done this sort of thing many times. But still, what if my females didn't pull their weight? What if the “support position” where they were placed in the sale order just didn't hold up? What if? What if? What if?

When the day before the sale finally arrived, my husband and I attended the neighboring Angus auction first before we headed to the ranch where my cattle were displayed. I gained a little confidence when a few friends asked about my lots in the next day's auction. Talking about my cattle and what they can offer was not only easy, it also helped remind me of their worth to me. Each of them had played an important role in building the breeding program I'd set my sights on so many years ago. I was proud to tell everything I knew — and I mean everything! (Fred finally pulled me away when he noticed that eyes were glazing over as I covered every detail of every sale lot.)

A whack on the side of the head

As we drove away from that sale, I began to realize that weeks of idle worry and unfounded fears about my cows' readiness had kept me from addressing what had really been looming in the back of my mind. It hit me that there were two very human questions at the root of every one of my bovine ones: Am I really ready to let these females go? Will the new owners give them the care that I have?

When I mentioned my revelation to Fred, he shrugged and in his matter-of-fact manner said, “If you want to get the most from what you've put into your cows, the

price you have to pay is to let them go.” Deep down that is what I wanted, but why had I struggled so much to uncover it? It was then that I remembered the second sentence of Carnegie's quote, “The sure-thing boat never gets far from the shore.”

After Fred parked the truck, he set out in the opposite direction as I wandered toward my cattle pen. I made my way down the aisle and found myself hoping I would have the courage just to follow through with this whole ordeal.

Then I felt a tiny ray of sunshine pass through the clouds. I looked up and a really good Angus breeder I know was standing at my gate. He opened it for me to pass through saying, “Shirley, I'm coming back in to take another look at your cows. Man, they're good. Tell me about them!”

I truly love talking about cattle, almost as much as I love caring for them, planning for them, hoping for them and yes, Fred, even paying for them! When I expounded on the good points of each individual and everything she'd done to get me on my way in this business, the message finally got through — to me.

It was time for these cows to contribute to someone else's program exactly what they'd given to mine — and more.

Row, row, row your boat

Selling the females that got me started means it is time for me to move on to new genetics that will bring new lessons and new challenges. I must believe that in different environments, under different management and with different goals, my cows will prove their worth all over again in ways that fit each owner's idea of what matters and what works.

This daring sale experience delivered my answer to those two human questions. Letting my cattle go doesn't mean I have to stop being proud of what we accomplished together because caring and giving your best creates a special stewardship that never has to end. Now, I'll just be checking cows from the other side of the fence.

When you decide to do anything, you must be willing to row away from what you know toward new waters yet to be explored. And, later, though you're not still at the helm, trust that what you always cared about will be taken by someone else to new places you may never have dared to go. Bon voyage!

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Juniors earn achievement awards

The American Angus Auxiliary recognizes youth for their accomplishments with Angus cattle by awarding them a Certificate of Achievement. While the Auxiliary intends to report all winners in the May youth-focused issue of the *Angus Journal*, not all states had submitted their winners at press time. The *Angus Journal* will publish other achievement award winners within the "Next Generation" column as they become available.

The following junior members have been awarded Certificates of Achievement:

Alabama

Kindra Wood

Arkansas

Allyson McGuire
Kimberly McGuire

Colorado

Cashley Ahlberg
Theresa Craig
Brandon Creamer
Britney Creamer
Darby Emerson
Jessica Esch
Katie German
Holly Heckendorf
Daniel Howell
Lindsey Lawson
Erin Marvin
Michael Rea
Kyndal Reitzenstein

Indiana

Baron Rieker
Christoph Rieker
Katarina Rieker
Steven Rieker
Zachary Rieker

Iowa

Joel Allison
Stephanie Arp
Lauren Barker
Austin Brandt
Weston Brandt
Joe Burns
Dustin Carter
Bridget Driscoll
Bryanne Duckett
Jordan Eggman
Jennifer Esbeck
Zane Gray
Zebadiah Gray
Cole Greiman
Kyle Greiman
Madison Henderson
Tucker Henderson
Tyler Henderson
Abby Janssen
Katie Jensen
Justin Kress
Leo Kruse
Ashley Kuehn
Caitlin Kuehn
Denae Leonard
Justin Lindgren
Mandy Mann
Landi McFarland
Glen Mommsen
Laura Mommsen



Michael Murphy
Jordan Paulsrud
Andrea Poll
Ty Ruby
Wesley Ruby
Scott Sarsfield
Troy Schermer
Drew Schroeder
Jason Schroeder
Lauren Schroeder
Dustin Smith
Lisa Stream
Sarah Stream
Chance Sullivan
James Sweeney
Joe Sweeney
Curtis Thelen
Amanda Wical

Kansas

Courtenay DeHoff
Megan Fink
Clayton Lampe
Garrett Lampe
Kyleigh Santee
Megin Santee
Cody Theis

Michigan

Erika Boehmer
Evan Boehmer
Ricka Boehmer
Drew Bordner
Hope Bordner
Ben Canfield
Heather Canfield
Andrew Foster
Danielle Foster
Benjamin Goheen
Mitchell Goheen
R. Scott Heil
Chelsea Ruggles
Justin Ruggles
Wren Schroeder
Julie Thelen
Renee Thelen
Patti Vaassen
Rachael Vaassen

Missouri

Mallory Trosper

Montana

Brandan Annala
Kevin Arntzen
Olivia Barragree
Zane Barragree
Ashley Berkram
Cortney Bromenshenk
Allison Dubs
Katrina Dubs
Kelsey Fraser
Greg Goggins
Lorissa Harris
Cory Hawks
Beth Hooker
Anne Indreland
Emily Kading
Kelley Knight
Josh Koch
Shane Koch
Kaleigh Mikkelsen
Kensey Mikkelsen
Jenessa Monson
Leo Ogg
Kyla Olson
Shelbi Perkins
Sierra Reyher
Karin Romanchuk
Ben Van Dyke
Dan Vanek
Pam Vanek
Will Van Haur

Ohio

Kayla Alexander
Tanner Ayres
Justin Bachman
Krystin Bachman
Jordan Bockelman
Danielle Brosey
Jared Brosey
Justin Brosey
Hannah Burmeister
Katie Cavendish
Kelsie Davis
Lincoln Deitrick
Logan Deitrick
Stephanie Dickson
Christina Egner
Lorraine English
Bethaney Enos

Eric Gahler
Janene Gahler
Janel Gilbert
Jordan Gilbert
Lauren Grimes
Lindsey Grimes
Heather Halderman
Bailey Harsh
Will Harsh
Kelsie Hinds
Haley James
Megan Kalb
Megan Kiesel
Eric King
Colton Kreager
Dennis Majors
Lindsey Matheny
Tyler McConnell
Andrew Miller
Jordan Moore
Olivia Moore
Jordon Mullett
Cassidy Ruff
Davin Sherman
Caid Unger
Vince Untied
Casey Wagner
Jerilyn Wagner
Megan Weisel
Heidi White
Sarah Wogan

Tennessee

Hannah Rowlett
Jan Rowlett

Texas

Megan Ahearn
Callie Donaldson
InaBeth Donaldson
Gretchen Ettredge
Tammy Etteredge
Kevin Gleason
Mark Gleason
Jentry Jagers
Jill Jagers
Austin John
C.A. Jones
Kyle Kemp
Katy Kemp
Logan Lastovica
Mollie Lastovica
Katy Satee
Jaci Jagers Simmons
Wade Wells
Zach Wells
Brazos Williams
Tylee Jo Williams