



# 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!

*Shirley Williams*

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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