



Auxiliary Notes

► by **Nancy Thelen**, president, American Angus Auxiliary

Planning and preparation pay

The American Angus Auxiliary officers and committee chairs are preparing for our Annual Meeting and activities that take place in conjunction with the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) Nov. 15-18 in Louisville, Ky.

Plans

The Auxiliary meetings begin with the Executive Board meeting scheduled for 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Executive West Hotel headquarters. The Auxiliary Annual Meeting will begin at 3 p.m. Room locations will be listed on the signs near the Angus registration table in the hotel lobby.

The Executive Board consists of the officers, the president of each state or regional auxiliary or her representative, the chairperson of all national committees or her representative and all past presidents of the American Angus Auxiliary. The American Angus Auxiliary president may also appoint a voting representative for each state that does not have an organized auxiliary. Anyone interested may attend the Board Meeting. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to represent your state at the meeting.

We are planning on a large attendance at the Annual Meeting, which begins at 3 p.m. Members and those interested in knowing more about the Auxiliary will:

- learn about several new and potential programs;
- elect officers and our first regional directors; and
- provide input for our Auxiliary leadership.

This year the Auxiliary will also have a display at the Exposition Center. Plan to stop by all of the Angus displays on the second floor in the trade show area. Check out information on our Auxiliary activities.

You'll also be able to view a video on "Blue," the American Quarter Horse Association (AQHA) 2-year-old blue roan gelding donated to us by the Sheri Spader family. He is sired by Blue Max Hancock and will be offered at auction Jan. 14, 2009, at the Trowbridge Family and Friends Sale in Denver, Colo. Sheri's gift is in honor of the late Richard "Dick" Spader, former executive vice president of the American Angus Association, and will benefit the Auxiliary scholarship fund.

Preparation

Another part of our Auxiliary activities in Louisville is the selection of Miss American Angus. Anyone interested is invited to listen to the speeches of the five young women competing for the 2009 Miss American Angus title. The speeches will begin at approximately 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 16, and signage in the hotel lobby will direct you to the presentations. The speeches are always very impressive and are a great way to showcase our contestants.

Chairpersons Mary and Emily McCurry and their Miss American Angus Committee spend many hours throughout the year coordinating this program, obtaining sponsors and facilitating opportunities in Louisville for the judges and contestants to interact. The new Miss American Angus will be crowned during the bull show Monday, Nov. 17.

Another stop you will not want to miss is the Holiday Room in the hotel. The Auxiliary Angus Sale Barn and the Angus Foundation will offer a variety of unique gifts — from clothing to 125th Anniversary coasters to artwork and Angus mugs. The room is open daily beginning Saturday, Nov. 15, through Monday, Nov. 17. It's a great place to do some Christmas shopping. Angus Sale Barn Chairperson Cathy Miller

2008 American Angus Auxiliary Officers

- **President** — Nancy Thelen, 7821 Weber Rd., Saline, MI 48176; 734-944-6262; hillsideacres01@aol.com
- **President-elect** — Michelle Rieff, PO Box 923, Bentonville, AR 72712; 479-795-2584; michellerieff@aol.com
- **Secretary-treasurer** — Kathi Creamer, 17270 6450 Rd., Montrose, CO 81401; 970-240-2798; lazyjb@rocketweb.net
- **Advisor** — Mary Greiman, 1960 200th St., Garner, IA 50438; 641-923-2235; tmkcg@ncn.net

► Pictured at right: 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.



PHOTO BY STEVE THELEN

also invites anyone interested to help out in the Holiday Room.

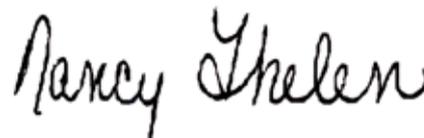
Certificate of Achievement

Nov. 1 is the deadline for submitting the Auxiliary Certificate of Achievement application forms. This national recognition program is designed to recognize juniors who have had outstanding achievements at the national, state and district (tri-county)

levels in the showing, in educational contests and in leadership roles.

The application form is available on our web site at www.angusauxiliary.com and covers the period from Oct. 1, 2007, to Sept. 30, 2008. If your state has an auxiliary or junior Angus association, contact the auxiliary president or junior advisor for information on submitting the application. Otherwise, applications can be sent directly

to the committee chair as listed on the application. Thanks for helping us recognize youth across the country.



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My summer as Miss American Angus

by *Danielle Foster, Miss American Angus*

Summer sure is flying by. Soon we will be putting away our duffel bags and registration books and getting out our backpacks and textbooks. My summer was filled with amazing memories.

During the month of May we (Andrew, Mom, grandmas and Nancy Thelen) went to the Michigan state capital, where we were introduced on the Senate floor. Following their session we went into the caucus room and met with many of the senators. We handed out delicious *Certified Angus Beef*[®] (CAB[®]) steak strips and packets of information. This was a wonderful opportunity many of you could experience — just contact your state senator.

At the end of May we went into Chicago for a day I will never forget. We went to the set of “This Week in Agribusiness” with Orion Samuelson and Max Armstrong. I met the two farm broadcasters and watched them tape the majority of their show. The fun began when I stepped on set and did an interview with them.

The next day mom and I boarded a plane and headed to Maryland for the Atlantic National. It is such a different experience when attending these shows as Miss American Angus. The queen’s reception was a wonderful time, and I was so excited to meet a large number of state royalty.

Thank you to all the ladies who helped throughout the weekend. I truly could not have done it without you. Thank you to Harry Bachman for organizing such an amazing show and doing all you could do to help me. I definitely appreciated it.

My next event was the Ohio Preview Show. My dad was asked to judge and there was no better opportunity to go to Ohio with him. Thank you to everyone for being so kind and welcoming.

That evening we went straight to Lansing for the Michigan Preview Show. I cannot express my gratitude for all of the love and support everyone has shown me. It is truly an honor to represent such an amazing state.

Up next was the Eastern Regional Junior Angus Show. Dad, mom, and I packed up the car and drove the distance for an amazing show. Thank you to all the West Virginia juniors, parents and advisors for putting on such an amazing show.

Thank you to Dr. and Mrs. Fort for having the queen’s reception at your beautiful home. We had a wonderful time. As a Michigan girl, I’m not used to those beautiful “hills” as you all call them.

The show went great, and once again I appreciated all of the assistance I received from the state royalty, especially Miss Haley Meadows, the Virginia Angus Princess, for helping me all day, every day. You are a remarkable young lady.

The highlight of the weekend, which I am sure many of you heard about, was the donkey races. I faced my fears and jumped

on top of an animal, which we were warned would go fast and try to buck us off either forward or backward. They were right with the warning. I made it around the ring, screaming the whole time, but as hard as my donkey tried to tip me off, I stayed on. To top it off, I finished fourth in my heat. Woohoo! That was honestly the funniest thing, and it was so wonderful to see absolutely everyone at least watching and many participating. But let me assure you, there is no Miss American Donkey in my future!

Attending the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) as Miss American Angus was an incredible experience. Our queen’s reception at the botanical center was lovely and a very enjoyable afternoon. Thank you to Angie and committee for organizing it. I must admit, the baton twirling at the queen’s reception was similar to the donkey racing. It did not go smoothly, but I did it.

Being recognized by everyone as “Miss America” was extremely special, especially when it was the younger girls who recognized me and told me of their dreams to become Miss American Angus.

The NJAA Annual Meeting was wonderful, and all of the candidates did a wonderful job with their campaigns. Congratulations to the “new six.” The show went smoothly, and all awards made it into the hands of the rightful owners.

I cannot even begin to thank all of the people who made my week so amazing. I must thank the junior Board for helping whenever needed and the American Angus Association for the financial and nonfinancial support they give.

To Shelia and James — thanks for keeping me on my toes and providing reassurance that I was doing a good job. I appreciate all you both do.

Thank you to all of the state royalty who assisted me in the ring. I really appreciated it, and hope you all had fun and made some lifelong friendships.

Finally, I must thank all of the Michigan families for being so supportive and helping out when needed. I must especially thank the Vaassen family for all they do, listening to speeches, watching our cattle and cracking jokes to see a smile. They helped make our week go smoothly! All my Christmas wishes came true during “Christmas in July” in Iowa.

After a couple days of recovery, we were off to Louisville, Ky., for the All-American Angus Breeders’ Futurity. Thank you to Ernie, Linda, Anne and Tom for all the hard work you put into this show. As we left Louisville, I suddenly realized the next time we would be back there my time as Miss American Angus would be over.

The Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) Conference

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was a chance to leave the crown and banner at home and enjoy some time with my fellow juniors. Montana is truly beautiful. The weekend was busy and tiring, but I know every junior came home with some new skills and some wonderful memories. Thank you to the junior Board for doing such an incredible job. Also, thank you to the different ranches and operations who sponsored the events and invited us to tour their facilities.

The final months of my reign are sure to be exciting with fall sales, other events and, of course, the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE). As summer comes to an end, I hope you all have filled your hearts with memories. I definitely have. The funny thing is, we always think of summer as our break from school, our break from learning, but this summer I learned more than I possibly imagined.

- ▶ A smile is truly contagious.
- ▶ Spending a moment with the little ones who look up to you will mean more than anything.
- ▶ Step out of your comfort zone. The donkey races and baton twirling definitely made me nervous, but in the end it was worth it.
- ▶ Treasure the moments, because soon you will realize it is so close to over. I know my involvement in the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) will always continue, but, in reality, I am two short years away from no longer being a junior.
- ▶ Thank those who make it possible. I could not do anything I have done without the support of my family, especially my parents and brother. "Thank you," and "I love you," are two important things to say after a crazy summer.

Good luck this fall to everyone. I look forward to seeing you all at an upcoming Angus event.

