



# Auxiliary Notes

► by *Cortney Hill-Dukehart Cates, American Angus Auxiliary*

## Our tradition continues

*In spring, the axis of the Earth is increasing its tilt relative to the sun, and, as the length of daylight rapidly increases, the earth begins to warm significantly, causing new plant growth to “spring forth,” giving the season its name. Hopefully, by now you’re enjoying the sunshine, calving season is winding down and the mud has disappeared. The excitement of watching the calf crop grow and deciding what bulls to use for next year is in full swing, and planting season is coming to an end. This time of year is one of my favorites; we are able to turn cows out on pasture, and hay making begins. There is just something relaxing about mowing grass, raking hay or moving round bales ... plus, I get to work on my tan!*

### Honoring tradition

It seems the older I get, the faster time goes by and everything outdates itself so quickly. I believe that is why I value traditions so much. It’s not that I am opposed to change and advancing with the times, but I do feel strongly about honoring certain traditions. The word “tradition” itself derives from the Latin *tradere* or *traderer*, literally meaning to transmit, to hand over, to give for safekeeping.

The American Angus Auxiliary exemplifies this idea by promoting the Angus breed and supporting Angus juniors with educational programs and scholarship opportunities. This is why the Auxiliary was founded. Sixty years later, we are carrying on the tradition that has been passed to us through the generations.

The American Angus Auxiliary created the scholarship fund in 1955 to provide recognition and an award to an outstanding girl. The first heifer, donated in 1958 by P.L. Benshoof of Treasure Acres Farm, Blairsburg, Iowa, was auctioned during The All-

American Angus Futurity at Lexington, Ky. This Auxiliary Futurity Heifer was the beginning of a tradition that lasted until 1996.

### Adapting to the times

The tradition was re-established in 2011, after a 15-year hiatus. Jim and Ardyce O’Neill of O’Neill Angus Farm, Logan, Iowa, donated the heifer, which sold to Greg Buie of Copan, Okla. In 2012, Gardiner Angus Ranch of Ashland, Kan., donated the endowment heifer that was purchased by French River Cattle Co. of Ontario, Canada.

In 2013, Express Ranches of Yukon, Okla., has graciously donated an exceptional bred heifer. EXAR Rita 5681 is an Oct. 2011 daughter of Connealy Consensus, the \$210,000 top-selling bull at Connealy Angus Ranch, whose sons and daughters have topped sales across the nation for the past two years.

This powerful bred heifer descends from the legendary GAR EXT 614, a female whose progeny have broken virtually every individual sales record in Angus breed history. The donor dam of this heifer was the \$60,000 top-selling female of a past Sterling Hunter sale in Michigan and currently serves as a joint embryo donor for Express Ranches,

KiamichiLink Ranch and Pollard Farms in Oklahoma.

Her dam and granddam have both reigned as top-valued cows of the Angus breed; she is examined safe to calve Aug. 2, 2013, to EXAR Upshot 0562B. A picture and video of the heifer is available at [www.angusauxiliary.com](http://www.angusauxiliary.com). This heifer was hand-selected by Jarold Callahan, president at Express Ranches. For more information on this great cow prospect, call 405-350-0044 or email [callahan@expressranches.com](mailto:callahan@expressranches.com).

The auction will be hosted Sunday, June 16, 2013, during The All-American Angus Breeders’ Futurity luncheon banquet. Absentee and phone bidding will be available. Contact Cortney Hill-Dukehart Cates, American Angus Auxiliary president, at [cortneyhd@gmail.com](mailto:cortneyhd@gmail.com) or call 410-707-0267 for more information. Proceeds raised from this event help us carry on the tradition of providing scholarships and awards for the members of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA).

*Cortney Hill-Dukehart Cates*

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► Express Ranches of Yukon, Okla., has donated EXAR Rita 5681, an October 2011 daughter of Connealy Consensus, to be the 2013 Auxiliary Futurity Heifer.

### 2013 American Angus Auxiliary Officers

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