

## **LIFELONG EDUCATION**

*It has been a road filled with amazing experiences and educational opportunities to get me to where I am today. The greatest influence outside of faith and family has been my education, which includes formal training and everyday life.*

### **Learning from the past**

Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which the knowledge, skills, values, beliefs and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to the next through storytelling, discussion, teaching, training and/or research. Any experience that has a formative effect on the way one thinks, feels or acts may be considered educational.

When I read this definition of education, the part of transferring information from one generation to the next resonates in me for two reasons. First, I think back to my grandparents as they emigrated to America. My grandparents told my parents stories of how and why they came to America. My parents continued this with my sisters, brother and me. In turn, we have told our children so we would not forget from where we all came. It is my hope that my children will tell the stories to their children. I also want them to live every day so we add to our story and learn how it shapes us. If we don't educate our children about their past and guide them through the present, how will they know what to do in the future?

Secondly, I see a similar scenario going on in the American Angus Auxiliary. Through the years, I have watched the long-standing Auxiliary members pass on the history of the organization and business practices to each new officer team. While things continue to evolve and new ideas enhance the traditions of our past, we sometimes take for granted that all people in the Angus world fully understand what the Auxiliary works toward. Part of my mission with the Auxiliary is to enhance communications with those outside of the organization and bring a new level of understanding and knowledge to everyone involved.

### **Teaching the next generation**

The Auxiliary guides and offers opportunities to the next generation of our Angus family — our juniors and new members. Auxiliary members can become more involved through committees, projects and officer positions. Our youth have several educational opportunities through the awards and programs sponsored by the Auxiliary. We want to ensure that the Auxiliary's mission will continue to be a prominent educational entity for our Angus members, regardless of age and background.

These educational opportunities are as follows:

#### **Scholarships**

The American Angus Auxiliary scholarships are presented annually. Ten scholarships will be awarded. The total amount awarded will range from \$12,000 to

\$15,000. Each state auxiliary is entitled to submit one girl and one boy application for the national scholarship and must be submitted by the state or regional scholarship chairperson to the American Angus Auxiliary chairperson. The application for the American Angus Auxiliary Scholarships is available online at [www.angusauxiliary.com/scholarships/index.html](http://www.angusauxiliary.com/scholarships/index.html). The postmark for applications from the state contact is May 1.

### **Spader Award**

The winner of the senior division of the extemporaneous speaking contest receives a belt buckle from the American Angus Auxiliary in the name of Richard Spader.

### **Grote Award**

The winners of the two intermediate divisions in the extemporaneous-speaking category receive a Harvey Rattey Pewter Sculpture from the American Angus Auxiliary in the name of Pat Grote.

### **Crystal Award**

The American Angus Auxiliary sponsors the Janet Castle Crystal Award to promote and encourage participation in educational events. These contests allow all juniors, even those who might not show cattle, to participate in the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). Points are earned for placing and participation in the photography, poster, graphic design, extemporaneous and prepared public speaking, team sales, creative writing, quiz bowl, and the Auxiliary-sponsored All-American Certified Angus Beef® (CAB®) Cook-Off. Two awards are presented, one to the high-point boy and one to the high-point girl.

### **All-American CAB Cook-Off**

The event, sponsored jointly by the American Angus Auxiliary, the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA), American Angus Association and Certified Angus Beef LLC, is hosted annually during the NJAS.

The event is educational, competitive and fun. It provides an excellent way to educate and entertain nonparticipants, while promoting the ultimate end product — the CAB brand.

### **Certificates of Achievement**

The certificate is issued to qualifying juniors for outstanding achievements at national, state and district (tri-county) levels. In a given year (from Oct. 1 of the previous year to Sept. 30 of the current year), a qualifying junior Angus member will receive one certificate.

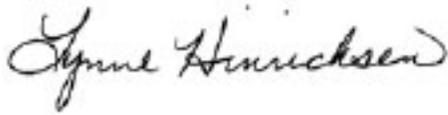
Achievements that qualify include champion or reserve champions; division or reserve division champions; awards in showmanship, judging, carcass classes, scholarship competitions, royalty competitions and all NJAA recognized competitions, including those at the NJAS. Gold, Silver and Bronze awards also qualify, as do leadership roles or positions that were held during that time.

More information and forms can be found on our website at [www.angusauxiliary.com](http://www.angusauxiliary.com).

**Lifelong learning**

I truly believe that education continues throughout our lives. My faith continues to teach me many things to include service, patience and gratitude. My education goes on through my family when each phase of raising children brings its challenges, proud moments and discipline factors. Furthermore, after 23-plus years of marriage, I think I still can learn how to be a better spouse — but that is the subject of another column.

Lead on, ladies!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynne Hinrichsen".

Lynne Hinrichsen, American Angus Auxiliary  
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