



American Angus Auxiliary *The Auxiliary Post*

Thoughts from the President



For 74 years, the Auxiliary has been working with the AAA and the NJAA to promote youth and the welfare Angus breed. The Auxiliary provides educational activities for junior Angus members, such as scholarship programs, awards, and competitions.

The first Auxiliary scholarship of \$300 awarded in 1957. Since then, the Auxiliary has provided more than \$571,000 to deserving youth. While the Auxiliary can be proud of this milestone, it would not be possible without Angus members and breeders supporting our fundraising efforts in the Rattey Sculptures, Gifts That Sizzle, and the Full Circle Online Auction.

Beginning in 1983, the Cook-Off was the first non-showing educational contest. First through third awards are given in each category and age divisions. The first place intermediate steak team is awarded the Pat Grote LEAD Award which pays for team members to attend LEAD. Patricia Grote served as president of the Auxiliary (2001–2002). The overall junior team is awarded the Ardyce's Aprons award. Ardyce O'Neill was the Beef Education Chair for the first cook-off in 1983 and served on the Beef Cook-Off committee for 36 years. The champion team in each category will compete for the Black Kettle Award in memory of longtime supporter and friend of the cook-off, Paul St. Blanc. Paul took part in the very first

CAB Cook-Off at the NJAS in 1983. He continued competing and helping at the event for years, promoting CAB by teaching others about beef quality and preparation.

Starting in 2006, the Extemporaneous Speaking Intermediate division was split into two age groups and resulted in two awards. The winners of the contest receive a Harvey Rattey Pewter Sculpture Award from the Auxiliary in the name of mentor and friend Pat Grote.

The Richard L. Spader award is sponsored in memory of former AAA Executive Vice President. This custom engraved belt buckle award is given to the winner of the Senior Extemporaneous Speaking division.

The Crystal Award is based on placings in all the educational events. It is awarded to the overall high-point boy and girl. There is no application needed for this award. The award was created in memory of Janet Castle who was one of the founders of the Scholarship fund. She served as President of the Auxiliary in 1962.

The oldest continuous program, the Silver Pitcher award began in 1953 at the Chicago Stock Show. Originally presented a young lady excelling in show ring achievements. The award presentation was moved to the NAILE in 1975 before its current home at the NJAS. Today the award is presented to the boy and girl with the most outstanding achievements in the show ring at the NJAS.

The Showmanship Contest is sponsored by the AAA, and the top 5 showmen receive a Silver Revere Bowl from the Auxiliary. This contest is one of the most prominent and challenging showmanship contests in the cattle industry. Originally organized by Dean Hurlbut to encourage young men and women to become interested in showing Angus cattle, the top showman award is accordingly named the Dean Hurlbut Award.

The American Angus Auxiliary is essentially a backbone support organization for NJAS. Without their involvement, many of the recognition programs and educational opportunities at NJAS wouldn't exist at the same level.

Emma Collins Powell

From your Regional Directors

When you spot buttercups blooming in the fields, you know spring has arrived in the West! It still surprises me how mild our winter was this year. Coffee shop chatter often revolves around the drought and the looming threat of an intense fire season come summer. Omak, bisected by the Okanogan River and less than an hour from Grand Coulee Dam, sits in a region where the volume of water can be deceiving. As I drive along the high river, my thoughts often turn to irrigation and summer water holes. Our snow pack plays a crucial role in sustaining our summer pastures and water tables. As cattlemen, we're hoping for enough snow melt to avoid hauling water when our stock ponds and springs dry up from this unusually dry winter. Our typical winter storms stayed away, with only a few chilly days to remind us of what's usually in store.

Perhaps it's the mild winter, but it's hard to believe we're already on the downside of bull sale season, gearing up for branding. So far, our ranch has had two brandings, with a few more to go. The best part of spring branding is always the people we consider family. What would any operation be without the support of family and friends? It's a reminder that agriculture, and the cattle industry in particular, is

more than just business—it's about community. Whether it's lending a hand at branding or sharing a laugh over a cup of coffee, we rely on one another, and that support makes all the difference in a season as busy as this.

Of course, breeding season is also in full swing. Whether you're using AI, turning out bulls, or doing a bit of both, it's a busy time of year. But through all of it, it's a time to reflect on how far we've come, the challenges we've overcome, and the future we're building together. We're not just ranchers—we're stewards of the land and the animals, and that responsibility is something we take seriously every day.

Reno welcomed the Western National Angus Futurity at the end of March, and we were thrilled to host families from all across the West. Family Fun Night is always a hit, with great food and even better company. Our very own Washington native, Harper Hicks, was announced as the next Western National Angus Queen, adding a special local touch to the event.

The Western states are quickly gearing up for an active show season. Field days and regional previews are right around the corner, providing a chance for breeders, exhibitors, and Angus enthusiasts to come together, celebrate their successes, and share knowledge.

The American Angus Auxiliary plays a pivotal role in keeping these traditions alive—empowering the next generation, supporting our families, and fostering a sense of pride in the work we do.

As we move into the heart of spring, let us take a moment to appreciate the family bonds, the hard work, and the community that make the Angus breed and our ranching way of life so special. Whether at the sale barn, the branding pens, or in the show ring, the spirit of collaboration and dedication is what drives us all forward.

Let's continue to support one another, celebrate our achievements, and work together to ensure that the future of the Angus industry is as bright as the spring sunshine on a buttercup-filled field.

Katlenia Vejraska
Region 1 Director



Connect with us online!



American Angus Auxiliary



www.angusauxiliary.com



[american_angus_auxiliary](https://www.instagram.com/american_angus_auxiliary)

From your Regional Directors

Happy Spring, everyone! Here in Region 3, I am incredibly proud of our state organizations and the meaningful activities they continue to accomplish—both within their memberships and for the advancement of the Angus breed.

From the Minnesota Angus Auxiliary's cake auction held during their association banquet, to the Iowa Angus Auxiliary's impressive fundraising efforts featuring clothing, merchandise, and an outstanding embryo package, these are just a few examples of the energy and dedication across our region.

I know life can get busy, and running an organization like this can sometimes feel overwhelming. But efforts like these serve as a great reminder that things don't have

to become overly complicated. All it takes is a simple idea along with a few people to help cast out the vision; meaningful and lasting impacts can still be made. Impacts that are so important for our Angus youth and their families.

We are built on tradition, and those traditions remind us of who we are. At the same time, it's encouraging to see how we can honor those roots while continuing to grow and stay relevant as life evolves, and with the technology we have these days it can change and evolve rather quickly.

Looking ahead to this year, I'm excited to see what our youth and families can accomplish! A few good reminders, the American Angus Auxiliary Scholarship deadline is fast approaching –

watch for that May 1st deadline everyone! Get your teams lined up for this year's Cook Off and don't miss signing up by May 15th!

With that I am always available, whether it's email, a text or a phone call – please reach out with any questions or concerns you may have throughout the year.

Stacy Erdmann
Region 3 Director



Events to Note

Sunday, July 12th

Cook-off Meeting - 3:00 p.m.

Monday, July 13th

Royalty Reception - 9:30 a.m.

Cook-off Contest - 1:00 p.m.

Tailgate - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15th

Auxiliary Social - 3:15 p.m.

Mid-Year Meeting - 4:15 p.m.

Thursday, July 16th

Showmanship Preliminaries - 2:00 p.m.

Friday, July 17th

Showmanship Finals - 7:30 a.m.

Closing Ceremonies - 6 p.m.

Saturday, July 18th

Silver Pitcher Presentation - 7:30 a.m.

From your Regional Directors



Welcome Spring!! I think everyone is ready to put Winter in the rear-view mirror! Calves are arriving with much anticipated hope after hours of thought and planning on last year's breeding decisions. I hope that all the high school seniors are busy filling out scholarship applications with the American Angus Auxiliary one being on the top of the list. I encourage seniors to utilize their state scholarship chairperson while filling out the application. Those ladies have a wealth of knowledge when it comes to showcasing your years of participating in the National Junior Angus Association activities.

This year the Kentucky Junior Angus Association and a few neighboring states are hosting the National Junior Angus Show in Louisville, KY July 11-18, 2026. I would like to invite all ladies over 21 years old to come join us at our

Mid-Year meeting held on Wednesday of the NJAS. We would love to meet you and see your smiling face. It will be an exciting, busy and exhausting week that will leave us with new friendships and lasting memories.

May spring and summer bring us all sunshine, green grass and gentle rains at just the right time.

Lori Pillars
Region 5 Director



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2026 Miss American Angus - Claire Murnin



Hello Angus Enthusiasts! What a year it has already been. I kicked things off in Louisville, Kentucky at the North American International Livestock Expo, and there truly was no better way to start. Getting to be on the green chips, passing out ribbons, and working alongside the Kentucky and Indiana Angus Royalty made it an experience I won't forget anytime soon.

From there, I stayed close to home and spent time traveling across Montana, attending sales like Vermillion Ranch, Stevenson Angus, McDonnell Angus, and Sitz. Being able to support breeders across the Big Sky State was incredibly meaningful to me, especially those who have played a role in shaping my own Angus journey. It was a great reminder of how strong and connected the Angus family truly is.

January brought another big trip as I headed to Oklahoma City for Cattlemen's Congress. It was a full week of shows, sales, and events, but one of the biggest highlights was attending the Royal Gathering at the Governor's Mansion. Even after a long day, getting the chance to meet members of Oklahoma's legislature was such a unique opportunity. I was also so grateful to have support from royalty from Missouri, Minnesota, and Indiana throughout the week.

Right after that, I traveled to Denver for the National Western Stock Show, where I balanced both queening and exhibiting cattle. It was a busy week, but it showed me that it is possible to do both and grow from the experience. I was thankful for the help from Colorado and Nebraska royalty during that time.

February allowed for a little reset with time focused on school, along with attending the Miss Rodeo Montana Coronation Gala. It was a full-circle moment getting to support someone who had once shown Angus cattle alongside me.

In March, I traveled to Virginia for MAJAC and then to Reno, Nevada for the Western National Angus Futurity. Both events were incredible, filled with family, connection, and opportunities to serve. Helping with the Western States Angus Queen contest and working alongside Pennsylvania royalty made it even more special.

The first six months of my reign have been an incredible learning experience, and I am so excited for what is ahead. I can't wait to see where the rest of this journey takes me, and I hope our paths cross soon!

Claire Murnin

2026 Miss American Angus

A graphic with a pink background. At the top, the text "Stay Tuned!" is written in a large, red, cursive font. Below it, "AMERICAN ANGUS AUXILIARY" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font, followed by "FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES COMING SOON!" in the same font. In the center is a white silhouette of the United States with a black Angus cow's head inside. Below the map, the text "American Angus Auxiliary" is written in a red, cursive font. At the bottom, there is a list of four fundraising opportunities in bold, black, sans-serif font:

- CUSTOM, VINTAGE 75TH ANNIVERSARY ITEMS IN THE WORKS!
- 2026 FULL CIRCLE ONLINE AUCTION IN NOVEMBER
- RAFFLE AND BROWN BAG AUCTION AT NJAS
- CUSTOM NOTE CARDS SOLD AT NJAS (PRE-ORDERS ACCEPTED!)

Certified Angus Beef Cook-Off Contest

The American Angus Auxiliary-sponsored 43rd All-American Certified Angus Beef Cook-Off Contest is calling for states to submit their team rosters. All interested National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members must enter by May 15. The contest will be held Monday, July 13, in Louisville, KY at the 2026 National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). This year's NJAS theme is Bases Loaded in the Bluegrass.

A beloved pastime at the NJAS, the Cook-Off Contest provides an opportunity for NJAA members to display their knowledge of the beef industry, skills in the kitchen and creativity while enjoying friendly competition with fellow juniors. All contestants must be members of the NJAA and each team should be made up of two to six state junior Angus association members. States can enter a team in each category and age-division.

"We are excited to host the 43rd All-American Certified Angus Beef Cook-Off Contest, which serves as the oldest NJAS educational contest," said Anne Lampe, American Angus Auxiliary beef education committee co-chair. "I have no doubt we will see the teams bring their A-game to this year's cook-off. What better theme to lend itself to the event than America's favorite pastime."

Juniors will be challenged to grill up a menu that puts the ballpark concession stand to shame. The team will then present their meal to the judges in the form of a skit that is not only entertaining, but also highlights the team's knowledge of the Certified Angus Beef® brand. The cuts selected for this year's contest are:

- Steak: Baseball Cut Top Sirloin
- Roast: Peeled Coulotte (which also comes from the top sirloin)
- Other: Frankfurters

The contest consists of three age categories: 7-13, 14-17 and 18-21. States should note that the junior age division will be open to contestants as young as 7-years-old, aligning with the new NJAA age rules. All ages will be determined as of January 1. Mixed teams may be entered but will be classified by the oldest member of the team. The contest will be judged by a panel of three judges. Winners in showmanship, recipe and overall excellence will be awarded special prizes.

Rules and the online entry form are available on angusauxiliary.com. For contest questions contact Anne Lampe at 620-874-4273 or amlampe.al@gmail.com or Anne Patton Schubert at 502-477-2663. AMERICAN ANGUS AUXILIARY: For seventy years, the American Angus Auxiliary has been working with the American Angus Association and the National Junior Angus Association to promote youth and the Angus breed. The American Angus Auxiliary has worked to develop a number of educational and promotional programs to benefit everyone involved in the Angus industry. The American Angus Auxiliary presents more than \$18,000 in scholarships, each year, to ten young men and women involved in the Angus industry. As a member of the American Angus Auxiliary, you can play an important role by working to promote our youth and the Angus industry, meet the challenges of today's society and work toward developing our Angus youth into tomorrow's leaders. The American Angus Auxiliary offers individuals interested in the welfare of the Angus breed the opportunity to work together to provide educational, promotional and social programs and activities.

Jessica Hartman, Communications Specialist

Certificate of Achievement Awards

It is with much honor that I am pleased to serve as the Co-Chair for the Angus Auxiliary Certificate of Achievement Awards. In the past, I have served as a State Junior Advisor for the Nebraska Junior Angus Association. All three of my children were involved at the time. Early on at one of our first Junior National Shows, I attended the Annual Meeting for the Angus Auxiliary, and it was there that I was introduced to the Certificate of Achievement. The award is a simple but very important tool to be used much later in your children's Junior career.

I can't say how important that award became when Rachel was a senior in high school and applied for scholarships. The certificate becomes a wonderful record book, making filling out the lengthy scholarships a little easier. The certificate is a very simple form that the kids can use and receive much earned recognition for their hard work. The application can be found on the American Angus Auxiliary website, and qualifying achievements earned from October 1st through September of the current year are eligible.

I have always felt that the Certificate was very important and should be utilized. If any of the State Advisors have questions, please feel free to contact either myself or Erica Styles with any questions you may have.

Heather Trumble

Certificate of Achievement Committee Co-Chair



THANK YOU!

To all the buyers, bidders and donors,
THANK YOU for making our auction
a success. Your generosity supports the

MISSION
of the
AMERICAN ANGUS AUXILIARY
to invest in the youth of
the Angus breed.

Nominations are Open!

Annually, we elect three members to the Board of Directors, along with a Secretary/Treasurer. This is your opportunity to step into a leadership role and make an impact alongside passionate Angus enthusiasts. Nominations are now open for the **2027 Secretary/Treasurer** and **Regional Directors for Regions 1, 2, and 3**.

Open Regional Director positions:

Region 1: Washington, Idaho, Oregon, California, Nevada, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Arizona, Hawaii, Alaska

Region 2: Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma

Region 3: Kansas, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska

The Secretary/Treasurer role may extend to a four-year term through the officer progression, concluding as Advisor. This position will be elected by paid members at the 2026 Annual Auxiliary Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky this November.

Important Dates & Details:

Nominations close: August 1st, 2026

Ballots for Regional Directors will also be distributed in the Fall Auxiliary Post (digital and mail options available)

Be sure your contact information is up to date to receive your ballot. Membership updates should be sent to Jamie Rutledge, Membership Chair.

For full role descriptions, visit www.angusauxiliary.com and review the Guidelines. After nominations close, candidates will be contacted to confirm acceptance and receive additional details.

American Angus Auxiliary Officer and Regional Officer Nomination Form

Name of Nominee _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Position

_____ Secretary/Treasurer

_____ Region 1 Director

_____ Region 2 Director

_____ Region 3 Director

Please Mail or Email To:

Tonya Rae Theis
19262 Lecompton Road
Leavenworth, KS 67048
watkinsranch@hotmail.com

Due August 1st

This form may be duplicated.

Nominated by: _____ (current Auxiliary member) State _____



11.05.2026



Eleventh Annual FULL CIRCLE ONLINE AUCTION

"Full Circle Online Auction" is an innovative web-based consignment market that offers Angus breeders, families and allied industry the opportunity to both sell and buy, while making a substantial contribution to help ensure the sustainability of the Auxiliary's ongoing support of the Angus breed and it's youth.

The online auction will be held November 5th, 2026 hosted by www.AngusLive.com. Proceeds will support the Auxiliary's mission, including breed promotion, beef education, and youth development through programs, awards and scholarships. The Auxiliary is currently seeking a wide variety of items with a fair market value in excess of \$100. Auction categories include Angus memorabilia/collectibles, games/toys, vacation packages, home décor, cattle services and other useful items.

CONSIGNMENTS RECEIVED BY AUGUST 1, 2026
WILL RECEIVE 80 DAYS OF ADVERTISING INCLUDING AN AD IN THE ANGUS JOURNAL.

Consignors donate 100% to the Auxiliary and receive recognition in sale promotion to be launched on the online site throughout August through November. The Auxiliary invites you to be a part of this exciting event! If there are any questions, please contact one of the following:

Lynne Hinrichsen
LVH13080@GMAIL.COM

Supporting
PROMOTION. EDUCATION. DEVELOPMENT.
OF THE ANGUS BREED

WWW.ANGUSAUXILIARY.COM/FUNDRAISERS/FULLCIRCLEONLINEAUCTION



11.05.2026



Consignment Contract

FULL CIRCLE ONLINE AUCTION

Consignor: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Consignment Item: _____

Description: _____

Value of Consignment Item: _____

Are you willing to pay the shipping? YES or NO Shipping Cost: \$ _____
(If shipping is not included with consignment, please give estimated cost of shipping.)

Are you willing to deliver consignment (large or hard to ship) to an upcoming event both the consignor and buyer will be attending? YES or NO If yes, please indicate which events:

PLEASE CHECK THE FOLLOWING:

_____ I agree to contribute 100% of the gross revenue to support the Auxiliary scholarship fund and Angus youth program.

SHIPPING IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BUYER IN COORDINATION WITH THE SELLER.

PLEASE INCLUDE OR EMAIL A QUALITY PHOTO OF CONSIGNMENT ITEM.

Authorizing Signature: _____ Date: _____

ALL CONSIGNMENTS ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE FULL CIRCLE ONLINE AUCTION COMMITTEE.

PLEASE RETURN FORM TO: LYNNE HINRICHSEN TO 167478 9 MILE RD DUNCAN, OK 73533 OR EMAIL LVH13080@GMAIL.COM

The Auxiliary Post

Publication of the American Angus Auxiliary



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American Angus Auxiliary Membership Form To join, please return this form or online at www.angusauxiliary.com
Membership dues run from Oct. 1st to Sept. 30th

Today's Date: _____

Name _____

Street Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

I would like to receive The Auxiliary Post electronically via email. **YES** **NO**

Please make checks payable to American Angus Auxiliary

Mail your membership dues along with this form to:

American Angus Auxiliary, c/o Jamie Rutledge, 716 N. St. Andrews, Wichita, KS 67230

Membership Options

- ☐ Annual Membership: \$20
- ☐ Last year as NJAA member: \$75
Must submit no later than Dec. 31st of your last year as an NJAA member.
- ☐ Lifetime Member (One-time fee): \$100

For more information about memberships and committees, please visit us at www.angusauxiliary.com