



Auxiliary Notes

► by *Cortney Holshouser, American Angus Auxiliary*

Reflections

As the year is winding down for the American Angus Auxiliary and we are just a few short weeks away from our Annual Meeting activities, I can't help but reflect on my year as president of the American Angus Auxiliary.

Passion

One year ago I had many different emotions ... anxiety, anticipation, excitement, nervousness, fear. The one that overpowered all of these was passion. I could not wait to lead this outstanding group toward success. I believe so strongly in the Auxiliary's mission and the work that we all do to reward our Angus youth within the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA). However, was I strong enough to do the job that the membership and those depending on the Auxiliary deserve?

Being involved with the American Angus Auxiliary has provided me with many opportunities and unique experiences. One of the most exciting events was the recent Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB) Annual Conference. The inspiration and pride that I came away with was unbelievable. One of the highlights of the conference for me was Captain Richard Phillips as one of our keynote speakers.

A plan

Captain Phillips is best known for the 2009 attack on his freight ship by Somali pirates. He told of the conditions of the area in the days leading up to the attack and how he knew it

was only a matter of time before he and his crew were the next target. He had a plan ... a plan that involved all of his crew being prepared and working together to survive. He relayed his story so vividly that you could feel the fear that he felt in those days. His story ended better than anyone could have hoped for. His take-away message was, "You are stronger than you think ... see it through." What a simple, yet profound concept.

Like Captain Phillips, I overcame that fear and was stronger than I thought. I was able to do my job this year with some successes along the way, all of which was possible because I had an amazing "crew." They were prepared and knew the plan! Our executive team is an incredible group that works so diligently toward the mission of the American Angus Auxiliary. Officers, regional directors, committee chairwomen, committee members, and many others give of their time and resources because they believe so strongly in what we are doing for the Angus breed.

Looking ahead

As we look toward a new year and new officers, I am excited for the leadership and opportunities that the Auxiliary will provide. There is no better time for you to get involved

and be part of something so special. Whether you're creative and want to be a part of our Angus Gift Barn Committee, would like to help plan our Women Connected Conference, want to be a part of the scholarship selection committee, want to be a part of the Beef Education Committee and be an integral part of our annual Auxiliary-sponsored All-American *Certified Angus Beef*® Cook-Off or the many other programs that we offer — there are many areas in which you can contribute. Each and every role within this organization is vital. It is incredibly rewarding to be a part of something that you believe in so strongly.

My Angus history is not a long one. I was lucky enough to marry into it and immediately be hooked. When I first saw the American Angus Auxiliary in action at the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) 12 years ago, I knew that I wanted to be a part of that leadership. It all started for me by helping prepare refreshments for the Auxiliary's social program during NJAS. Something as simple as that gave me the confidence to apply to be an officer. I am so thankful to have taken that leap of faith. In the American Angus Auxiliary, I have found a home.

Thank you

To everyone who has contributed to the Auxiliary's success this year, thank you. Thank you for leading your committee. Thank you for helping in the Angus Gift Barn at a show. Thank you for judging scholarships for our Angus youth. Thank you for recording scores during Cook-Off. Thank you for whatever role you played. Thank you to every single member of this amazing organization. I hope that in some way I have inspired you to be a part of the American Angus Auxiliary. It has been an honor serving this membership!

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PHOTO COURTESY OF CORTNEY HOLSHOUSE

► The Auxiliary Executive Board poses at Angus headquarters in Saint Joseph, Mo.

2014 American Angus Auxiliary Officers

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