

Are you prepared?

I look forward to the month of February for several reasons. First, our calving season has been under way for a few weeks and it's like getting a gift every day a new calf enters the world. Next, February is a short month. Not being a huge fan of winter, I know spring is coming, and the daylight hours really seem to be getting longer. Lastly, we find out if our preparations for the calving season have been enough or if we need to change something or add a plan.

Planning

For many spring-calving operations, preparations began months ago for a successful calving season. For most producers, the preparations started when we determined what bulls to use on our females. Predictable genetics can take a lot of the guesswork out of what the cows will produce. However, the weather may be a larger factor that we cannot control as to what each day brings. We may have to bed down pens, bring cows or heifers into a barn or continually check them to ensure the calves are born healthy and have the best chance of survival.

Preparing for the future takes organization, planning and an end goal in mind. The American Angus Auxiliary knows that there are many young people planning for their future, and it is our goal to help make it possible.

Scholarship opportunities

The American Angus Auxiliary is proud to continue its mission of supporting our youth through education. The Auxiliary is able to help graduating seniors pursue their higher education goals by offering 10 scholarships to five girls and five boys. To apply for a national scholarship, the applicant must first win their state scholarship, if applicable. The application is available on the Auxiliary website, *www.angusauxiliary.com*, and the national deadline is May 1. Please check with your state scholarship chairperson for individual state deadlines. Any questions may be directed to the national scholarship chairperson, Carla Malson. She can be reached at malsonangus@aol.com or 208-739-2769.

Dedication through support

One of the easiest ways to assist the Auxiliary in its mission is through the support of our fundraising efforts. The Auxiliary is dedicated and committed to the mission of supporting our junior scholarships, awards and other means of promoting the Angus breed. Our largest fundraising project is the Angus Gift Barn. Through the purchase of Angus-inspired merchandise, the proceeds help allow the Auxiliary to continue its work. The Angus Gift Barn has something for everyone and a complete inventory is listed at *www.angusgiftbarn.com*, along with an easy online ordering process.

Another upcoming fundraiser will be the sale of the "Tradition Continues" female. This has been a very successful endeavor by the Auxiliary, and we appreciate working with a dedicated breeder. If you are interested in donating a heifer or embryo package, please contact one of the Auxiliary officers. Your support of our efforts allows us to continue improving and expanding our programs to reach more people. More importantly, you can help us prepare the next generation to take on the future.

e Hunricksen

EMAIL: rlangus@bluevalley.net www.angusauxiliary.com

2015 American Angus Auxiliary Officers

- President Lynne Hinrichsen, 13080 Christian Rd., Westmoreland, KS 66549; 785-457-2848; rlangus@bluevalley.net
- President-elect Carla Malson, 2901 S.W. 9th Ave., Parma, ID 83660; 208-739-2769; malsonangus@aol.com
- Secretary-treasurer Julie Murnin, PO Box 6, Huntley, MT 59037; 325-370-3103; juliemurnin@cattledesign.com
- Advisor Cortney Holshouser, 746 Collins Mill Rd., Castalia, NC 27816; 919-796-2346; kncholshouser@aol.com