



# Up Front

by **JOHN CROUCH**, *interim executive vice president, American Angus Association*

## Angus community says goodbye, faces tomorrow

I had finished mowing my yard that Saturday afternoon and was standing in front of our house admiring the beauty of the extraordinary autumn day when my wife, Judy, emerged with the news of my best friend Dick Spader's death. I could not speak, yet I knew I must help with arrangements and console his wife, Sheri, and the family as best I could.

Neighbors and church members rose to the occasion as people of the land always do. Somehow we made it through the next few days with God's help and the determination of our Angus family.

### Consoling each other

At 8 p.m. on the evening of the visitation, the wait was still two hours long. The next day, the funeral services were conducted in a beautiful church that seated 600. Some stood in the back and some outside. The ministers and those who eulogized Dick were poignant in their remembrances and tributes.

Dick was laid to rest on a beautiful day. Friends lingered, quietly visited, and shared a scrumptious meal prepared by the ladies of the Rosendale Christian Church, Rosendale, Mo.

As I reflect on those events and consider my interim appointment as executive vice president of the American Angus Association, I am filled with humility. I am also filled with respect and

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**— John Crouch**

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admiration for our officers, directors and staff for rising to the occasion and providing a sense of security and comfort for Association employees and members alike. Like the people of New York City, we were shaken, but not removed from the task at hand — service to our members. This member service is continuing in an uninterrupted fashion.

In a very positive action, our Board of Directors appointed a search committee and set forth procedures to be followed in selecting our next leader.

### Pages in history

So many times historical accounts of associations and societies go unrecorded. Important deliberations and behind-the-scenes events are left to be passed down by word of mouth. Often these oral historical records are embellished and sometimes tailored to the occasion.



**Richard L. Spader**  
Jan. 31, 1945 — Oct. 13, 2001

Dick Spader was fascinated by history. His library contains volumes of historical accounts of the development of the West. Dick, being a history buff, commissioned Keith Evans to finish the book he began years ago, *A Historic Angus Journey—The American Angus Association, 1883-2000*, which is an accurate account of the events and people that molded the development of the Association. It is satisfying to note that the extraordinary contributions of Dick are chronicled and preserved for antiquity.

Dick Spader was a good and decent man — he enriched our lives. He left things better than he found them.

