

by Julie Mais
Editor



Putting tools to good use

It was my 16th birthday, and I knew the contents of that gift box. But I was no less excited to peel back the wrapping paper.

The contents rattled. Metal on metal. I opened the present to reveal my very own blue and silver socket set. I would be purchasing my first car soon, and my dad was sure that each of his kids would be prepared with the right tools in an emergency.

Receiving these types of gifts were highly anticipated for my siblings and I: a pocketknife when we turned 12, and a set of pliers a few years before. These are basic things that helped us on the farm, and it just made sense for each of us to have our own.

At my bridal shower, my older sister gave me a special set of tools in memory of my grandma. When she got married, my grandma gifted her a similar set. Grandma told her, “Every wife needs her own set of tools, with her name on them — ones their husbands won’t take (and lose).”

I’ve continued to collect the tools needed along the way, both tangible and intangible. My experience in organizations — junior beef associations, 4-H and FFA, and school sports — taught me hard work, communication, public speaking and teamwork early on. College, internships and my career have added skills to my toolbox.

However, acquiring so many wonderful tools is meaningless unless they are put to good use. Life and leadership coach Rasheed Ogunlaru said, “All the tools, techniques and technology in the world are nothing without the head, heart and hands to use them wisely, kindly and mindfully.”


Your toolbox

The Angus breeder’s toolbox is as unique as their own operation. This issue, “The Toolbox,” covers many of tools available; but it’s up to each of you to decide what tools are helpful to your program and your customers. One often untapped resource we highlight is your regional manager. You will also find a list of helpful tips and tutorials for collecting phenotypes — an ongoing endeavor that only refines genetic prediction tools for Angus breeders.

The American Angus Association provides services, education and an avenue for networking and camaraderie. This was on full display during the 2022 Angus Convention this past November in Salt Lake City, Utah. You’ll find coverage of Association business, industry

discussions and breeders honored in this issue and future ones.

The *Angus Journal* team also takes a moment to recognize and congratulate graphic artist Mary Black on her retirement. She has spent the last three decades behind the scenes to help bring you the *Angus Journal* and *Angus Beef Bulletin*® that you know today. Her mark on these publications and the people in 3201 Frederick Avenue is long-lasting.

As you consider the tools in your toolbox, I’ll leave you with one more quote from Steve Jobs: “Technology is nothing. What’s important is that you have faith in people, that they’re basically good and smart — and if you give them tools, they’ll do wonderful things with them.” 

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie".

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