

Spring is coming



Shauna Hermel, editor
shermel@angus.org

On the calendar, winter has the same number of months as spring, summer and fall, but it sure feels longer. This winter that seems especially so.

I'm going to be glad to say goodbye to *El Niño*, and I'd go dump some ice cubes around the equator if that would hurry *La Niña* into effect (see Art Douglas's weather outlook on page 65). Here in the Midwest, the mud we usually deal with in March-April has been with us all winter. It's been a drain on cows, calves and humans.

Keep a close eye on those calves through their first month, as there are some hot scours going around. Stay in touch with your veterinarian for what is happening in your local area, and if your calves break with scours, get a diagnosis early.

Recently I've heard reports of producers losing 30% of a calf crop. We don't want to lose a single calf, let alone 30% of them. Some good old sunshine (and it is coming) will help; but offense is the best defense, and your veterinarian is your best resource. If you have weeks before you start to calve, it might pay you to ask if you need to modify your precalving nutrition and vaccination protocols for anything special this year.

Summer reading

Our editorial team has a host of topics to explore and provide information to assist you in managing your herd. From scours to pasture management, marketing for a higher return and new expected progeny differences (EPDs) focused on functionality, there are a lot of pressing issues to cover. While we aren't scheduled to have another print edition until late August, we will be providing our readers management, health and nutrition, and marketing insights, along with industry news, throughout the summer via the *Angus Beef Bulletin EXTRA*.

The *EXTRA* is truly a magazine in and of itself, formatted for viewing online or on your phone. You can sign up for a subscription at <http://bit.ly/MC-EXTRA-SUB>. To reach our *EXTRA* subscribers, we ask our advertisers to advertise in our bimonthly email or on the website itself. Being on our list, you should just get those two emails each month, plus maybe a request by me for information or special circumstance.

If you are already subscribed, we converted to a new email platform. Take a moment to use the link at the bottom of the email to update your profile preferences.

Other ways to keep up with us over the summer: follow @ABBeditor on Twitter or the *Angus Beef Bulletin* on Facebook.

Thank you

Thank you to all those who took the survey packaged with the January issue. Counting those we've already entered online and the stack remaining on my desk, we'll have more than 1,000 folks who participated. It was not a short survey, so we appreciate your commitment. We'll use the information to help us improve the products we provide through Angus Media — from content of the *Bulletin* to the advertising services we provide members. We plan to share some survey results via the *EXTRA* and Facebook, as well as in the *Bulletin* this fall.

As promised, we will be selecting our candidates to receive the gift cards and marketing package next week, and we'll announce those winners via our Facebook page.

While the winners of those incentives will be selected, your input is always valuable. You can still fill out the survey online at <http://bit.ly/ABBreadership>. Or, just send us a note to let us know what story topics you'd like us to explore for you in the coming year.

Spring is coming, the sun will be shining and it will soon be time to hit the road while the picture-taking is good. |

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3201 Frederick Ave. • Saint Joseph, MO 64506-2997
phone: 816-383-5200 • fax: 816-233-6575
office hours: (M-F) 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. (Central time)
website: www.angus.org/Media

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