

ROLE MODEL



WITH HER TRUE "Southern Bell" smile, this year's recipient of the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) Outstanding Leadership Award is no stranger to the Angus industry or junior Angus members. Christy Bell, Good Hope, Ga., is the fourth recipient of the NJAA Outstanding Leadership Award, which was created in memory of Barbara Smalstig for her support of junior Angus activities. The award is intended to honor an outstanding NJAA member each year during the American Angus Association banquet held during the Annual Meeting in Louisville, Ky.

The winner this year is the 21-year-old daughter of Wayne & Ann Bell, Good Hope, Ga. Christy has been an NJAA member for 12 years and has been involved with Angus cattle

Christy Bell received the NJAA outstanding Leadership Award for her dedication and efforts as a junior leader.

BY SUZANNE BERRY

as long as she can remember. Her Angus career was in the works long before she was born. Her parents purchased Angus cattle not long after they were married.

Little did they know where the Angus business would take their family. Ann can remember when Christy was a baby putting her in a stroller in the feed room while she fed the cows.

"I guess you could say Angus cattle is in my blood," says Christy.

Being the younger sister, Christy began her Angus career following her older brother, Brian, around with his show cattle. She can remember always being jealous that he was old enough to show and she wasn't. Christy wanted to be just like him and she could hardly wait until her ninth birthday.

Serving as hostess at the Queens Luncheon at the 1997 National Junior Angus Show, Christy Bell welcomed Angus queens and their mothers from across the United States to her home state of Georgia.

Although Christy has served in many offices within the Georgia Junior Angus Association (GJAA), she feels a leader is someone who makes a positive influence and serves as a role model to everyone. The best leaders, she adds, sometimes don't always hold an office.

"Being active in the NJAA has been a very positive experience for me," says Christy. "I have met so many people from across the country who share one common thing — their love for Angus cattle."

Christy's most treasured accomplishment was the opportunity to serve as the 1995 Miss American Angus. This ambassadorship gave her tremendous opportunity to be a role model. During her tenure as Miss American Angus, Christy had the opportunity to travel to many states and to meet people from all over the country and the world.

Christy's activities with the NJAA have taught her to set her goals high and work hard to achieve them. A person may not always succeed, says Christy, but the lack of success sometimes makes you a better person because it makes you want to strive even harder.

"I know winning isn't everything, as long as you are a winner within yourself," says Christy.

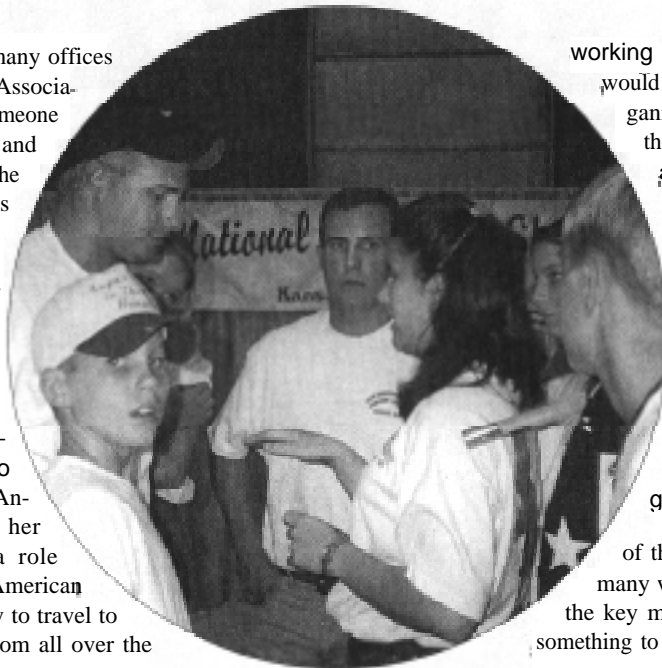
She has helped younger members with their Angus projects and has encouraged their involvement in educational activities at the state and national level. She always has a congratulations or an encouraging word for them. The NJAA leader is always willing to help others — whether it's presenting showmanship and fitting demonstrations, encouraging or helping juniors apply for the Bronze and Silver Pin Awards, or just being a friend.

"What Christy enjoys most is helping others learn. She receives personal satisfaction when she sees juniors accomplish their goals from what she has taught them," says Melvin Porter, GJAA advisor.

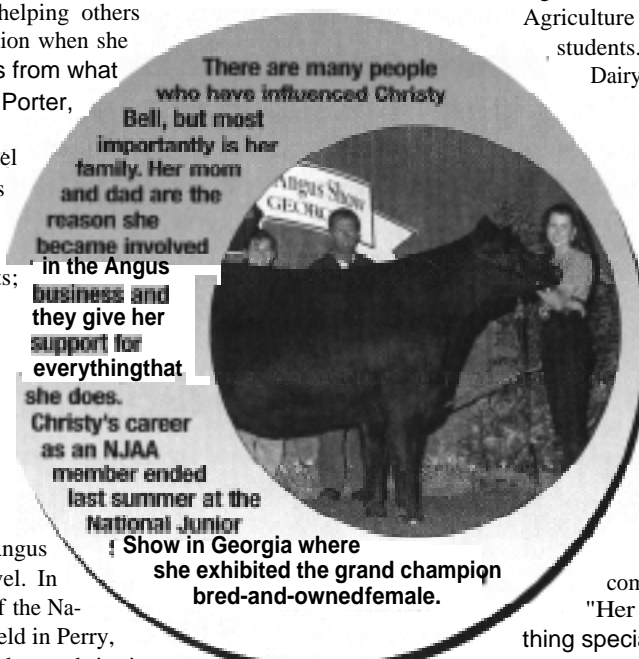
"Christy is a tremendous role model of an Angus representative. She has chaired committees; competed in all the Angus programs and contests; helped juniors with their projects; and assisted with award banquets, state field days, judging events, announcing, and in the ring. She is always there to lend a helping hand.

● National Junior Angus Show

Christy's contributions to the Angus industry don't stop at the state level. In 1997 she served as co-chairperson of the National Junior Angus Show (NJAS) held in Perry, Ga. Christy, along with many adults and junior members, spent two years planning, organizing and



Co-chair Christy Bell leads a discussion about the 1997 National Junior Angus Show. Christy, along with other Georgia Junior Angus members and parents, spent two years planning and organizing the week-long event.



There are many people who have influenced Christy Bell, but most importantly is her family. Her mom and dad are the reason she became involved in the Angus business and they give her support for everything that she does. Christy's career as an NJAA member ended last summer at the National Junior Angus Show in Georgia where she exhibited the grand champion bred-and-owned female.

working together for what Christy dreamed would be the best NJAS ever. She helped organize and execute many fund-raisers for the show. She did the legwork in getting a proclamation signed by the Governor of Georgia declaring the week of NJAS as Angus week in Georgia. Christy chaired the queen's luncheon and the opening ceremonies, in which she played the starring role of Scarlett O'Hara.

"She has been instrumental in organizing and promoting ways to raise funds for the Georgia juniors. She devised new ideas such as the 'Angus Lottery'," says Porter.

Christy adds, "Being co-chairperson of the NJAS helped me as a leader in so many ways. I realized that as leader you are the key motivator, but that it takes a team for something to become successful."

● Other involvement

Staying busy has never been a problem for Christy. She's currently actively involved with the Block & Bridle Club and is a charter member of the University of Georgia's Agricultural Communicators of Tomorrow club.

Christy also serves as an ambassador of the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. As an ambassador she promotes agriculture within the state of Georgia and encourages students to be a part of the agricultural industry.

Even with all of her activities, Christy still finds time to gain further experience in the agriculture industry working for the State Agriculture Curriculum Coordinator with the State Department of Agriculture Education. Her job is to put together the Agriculture curriculum for middle and high school students. She also works for the Animal and Dairy Science Extension Service.

● Future goals

This Georgia native is now attending the University of Georgia majoring in agricultural communications. Following graduation in June of 1998, Christy plans to pursue a career in public relations within the livestock industry. Although Christy is unsure exactly what career path awaits, she hopes to one day start a livestock magazine of her own. Recently she has taken an interest in livestock photography.

"Christy is one of those people who comes along once in a lifetime," Porter says. "Her caring vivacious personality is something special."

