



ANGIE STUMP DENTON PHOTO

# The Role of Miss American Angus in the New Millennium

—by Whitney Trosper  
2000 Miss American Angus

**W**hy all the hype about this “new millennium”? Do you ever think about it?

Having recently begun college at the University of Missouri, I have already been engaged in numerous activities and, quite frankly, I have had to study. Understandably, the adjustment has resulted in many stressful and sleepless nights and several instances of daydreaming.

I often recall my glory days at Penney High School as a cheerleader and basketball player, but I have also pondered the question I posed to you, “Why all the new-millennium hype?”

Interestingly, my two daydreaming topics are very much related, because I find the roles of Miss American Angus in the new millennium similar to the roles of a Penney High cheerleader.

I find it amazing that I will have been living as we approach a new millennium; but I wonder, will things change? While many may claim they have and will, I feel confident in repeating the old adage: While some things change, others will always stay the same.

I think the role of Miss American Angus has developed quite nicely in recent years. I do not see the position changing drastically in the new millennium, but rather improving in some basic areas. I believe that, like a cheerleader, Miss American Angus is an educator, a role model and, of course, a die-hard Angus enthusiast!

## ■ The educator

I have always enjoyed the opportunity to promote and educate the public, young and old, about the Angus breed and the *Certified Angus Beef*<sup>™</sup> [product].

I recently joined a sorority, and, during a get-to-know-you session, we were instructed to stand and tell one thing about us that nobody knew. Of course, I always say that I show

Angus cattle and was the past Missouri Angus Queen.

I repeatedly choose this fact, not only because I love the expressions of astonishment and confusion on each person's face, but also because I like all of the questions that follow. Leaving home for college, I knew I would meet and interact with people from numerous backgrounds, but I never thought I would have this much opportunity to tell others about Angus cattle and my love for the breed.

I believe Miss American Angus experiences quite frequently situations like I have just explained, and she should always take advantage of these occurrences to educate unknowing individuals.

Yes, she can and likely will attend Angus sales, shows and events, but the real opportunity for education is with the publics who see her as approachable and knowledgeable. She should attend schools, walk through trade shows, speak to FFA chapters, visit restaurants and supermarkets, and make herself visible outside Angus circles, focusing on people who are not already sold on Angus.

I believe there is real opportunity in focusing on children. Young people are fascinated by anyone looking as important and dignified as Miss American Angus, and they take to heart everything she tells them. Furthermore, they always tell their parents about interesting encounters and are an excellent way to reach twice as many people.

As a cheerleader I had the opportunity to play the role of an educator. At our annual cheerleading camp I taught hundreds of children about the responsibilities of being a cheerleader — from cheering to health to dependability. The word quickly spread to parents, and many adults complimented us on taking time for their young ones. Today I see many of those same children very active in school

CONTINUED ON PAGE 81

academics and activities, and I think Angus education at the young level can have positive effects as well.

■ **The role model**

We all know children are very impressionable. I can always remember the first impression I had of the “lady in red.” It was in Springfield, Mo., where my sister was showing at her first National Junior Angus Show (NJAS). At that time she was a role model for me because she was pretty and got to wear a crown and banner just like Miss America on television.

Later, as I became older, she was a role model because she was intelligent, a hard worker, one with high morals and goals, and a woman intent on success. I want every young adult to have this impression.

One of the greatest feelings I ever have is when I am looked

up to as a role model for a younger child. A high-school instructor recently wrote in a letter to me that she points at me as an example for her three young children. My heart beams with pride that I have been able to be that for her, and I believe Miss American Angus should strive for the same.

Being a role model is something I can also easily relate to my cheerleading days. It was an every-Friday occurrence as I arrived at the stadium for football games. Elementary children would virtually swarm around the cheerleaders in an effort to spend just a little time with the girl they hoped to be like someday, and their enthusiasm was contagious.

■ **The enthusiast**

This leads me to the last role I feel Miss American Angus should fulfill — the official

Angus enthusiast. Who better to radiate enthusiasm than the person most visible at all major Angus functions? Through radio and television interviews, through participation in opening ceremonies and as an official representative at banquets, Miss American Angus has the opportunity to remind people of another reason they are involved in the Angus business — for the fun.

Being a past cheerleader, I can account for how important it is to be enthusiastic. No matter what the score is, your attitude and excitement are key in keeping the crowd excited and players motivated. This same concept goes with the role of Miss American Angus. She should be thrilled about her duties and her position. She is the one who should try to put a smile back on the showmen’s faces, and keep them excited as

they exit the ring with a low score at the end of their class.

The new millennium may prove me wrong. Perhaps things will drastically and suddenly change, but I am content with simply the improvement of things that are already good. And I believe the role of Miss American Angus is no exception.

I have been presented on numerous occasions to be an educator, role model and enthusiast, and I know of the satisfaction and sense of pride I feel when doing so.

I hope Miss American Angus continues to grasp the opportunity to serve in these roles and make her service continually better.

**Editor’s note:** *Whitney Trospen, Hamilton, Mo., presented this speech during competitions to select the 2000 Miss American Angus in November.*

