

# Queen for a Month

*A typical month for Miss American Angus Lori Cash is filled with Angus activities, farm chores, college exams, family and friends.*

*May 1*

Aside from all the fun and excitement that students experience while at college, we all must go through a very stressful time — FINALS WEEK. This semester at Pennsylvania State University I have six finals. I've already taken two exams.

*May 2*

My psychology and theatre exams went "okay." I'm now concentrating on history and calculus. Several people on my dorm floor have already packed their bags and headed for home.

After living with these people on the same floor for two semesters, some close friendships were made. Because Penn State is so big (45,000 to 50,000 students), it's possible that I may never see some of these people again.

The one person I'll miss the most is my roommate, Sheri. We come from totally different backgrounds. She grew up just outside of Philly and I come from a small town (pop. 30 — counting pets!). She joined Pi Beta Phi sorority and I became a member of the Block & Bridle club. Her walls are covered with posters of men and Monet paintings; mine are decorated with pictures of cows, pigs and horses. But aside from our distinctly different backgrounds, we got along very well.

*May 3*

It's true that you learn to compromise when you live in a dorm room with another person and my roommate is extremely understanding.

As a member of the Block & Bridle club, I participated in the Little International where I showed a pig. We had two weeks to work with our pigs and I worked with mine almost every night. The first time I went to the barns, I warned Sheri that I might smell a little "piggy." She just laughed at me. Well, when I got back, I quickly changed out of my clothes and hopped into the shower. When I walked in the room, Sheri had opened all the windows, turned on the fan and was pouring baby powder into the fan!!!

*May 4*

I'm writing from my grandmother's home in Staunton, Virginia. My history

exam went well. I just wish I could say the same about calculus. At least, I'm no longer a "little freshman!"

After my math test, Mom helped me move out of my dorm. I said goodbye to everyone and shed a few tears. By 12:30, I was on the road and headed south. Mom and Dad couldn't go with me, so it was just me and my car. I just bought my gray Pontiac two weeks ago. My job this summer as a Pennsylvania beef industry/veal ambassador requires me to have a car.

My grandmother ("Granny") lives about 15 minutes away from my other grandparents. She sold her small herd of Hereford cattle but leases out her property to neighboring farmers. She's a very special lady and has had tremendous influence in my life.

*May 5*

Good news! Mom called me today to let me know that I received a letter from the Virginia Angus Association. It was in response to a letter that I sent, telling them I would like to participate in any upcoming events. They asked me to keep the Breeders Show in mind.

Today, Granny and I went shopping for a graduation present for my cousin, Kim. Afterwards, we went to my uncle's for a delicious barbecue chicken dinner. My cousins took me out for a night on the town in Staunton.

*May 6*

We just got back from Kim's graduation. Unlike Penn State, James Madison is a small university. I enjoyed talking with her afterwards. She wants to go on to graduate school and get a Ph.D. in nutrition. It got me thinking that I wouldn't mind going on to graduate school. I'm still undecided on a major. I was going to major in marketing, but because I struggled through calculus and have to take more math to obtain a degree, I'm considering going into speech communications with a minor in business. This major has several electives and would give me the chance to tie in some agriculture classes. I hope to get a job that involves agriculture and communications.

Went to grandma and granddaddy Cash's home.

*May 7*

This morning I woke up sore and tired. Last night I played wiffle ball and 'hide and go seek' with a bunch of my cousins. My grandma Cash is the best cook. For breakfast, she fixed ham, eggs and homemade bread. It sure beats dining hall food! My grandfather took me out to look at his calves. Then it was time for me to head home. I said goodbye and stopped by Granny's house to say goodbye to her.

After I got home and unloaded all my stuff, I went out to look at my steers. I hope to show them at the Atlantic National, Northeast Preview Show and the National Junior Angus Show. After feeding, I rinsed them and brushed them dry under the fan.

When I came into the house, I tried to call Mr. and Mrs. Calderazzo. I also tried to contact the Pennsylvania Junior Angus advisor, Dale Rains.

*May 8*

This morning I got a phone call at 6:30 a.m.! It was Dale. Since I've lived in the dorms, I'm not used to getting up that early. Now that I'm back home, I'll have to change my schedule.

I rinsed and walked my steers and then came in to unpack more stuff from college. That took most of the morning. At noon, I went out to heat check the cows. We only have 30 head of Angus and one Simmental cow, so it doesn't take very long.

After feeding and rinsing the steers, Mom, Kaye Sweigard, who is staying at our house, and I went to get a load of tan bark for the cattle pens and Mom's flower gardens.

*May 9*

With Mother's Day only four days away, I had to make a quick trip into State College to do a little shopping — after I finished working with my calves. I found a card for my mom and grandmother. I also ordered some flowers.

This evening, Dad and I put the cows out on grass. We also weaned our fall calves.

*May 10*

I received a letter today from Angus Auxiliary president Lois Foster. I also found out I will be attending a Beef In-

dustry Representative program on May 20-21. It will be a training seminar on public speaking and beef and veal cuts.

After speaking with Sally Calderazzo on the phone, it sounds like preparation is going well for the Atlantic National.

Also got a phone call from my best friend, Vicki. She is from a farm and showed cattle and pigs with me in 4-H. She's in the middle of her final exams.

*May 11*

The vet paid us a visit this morning to give the steers their shots for summer shows. Afterwards, Mom and I went into town to get groceries. Then Mom had to go to work. She left me in charge of fixing dinner. I ended up preparing a chicken dish. Dad and Kay said it was good, but they wouldn't want to hurt my feelings!

A good friend of mine called from Ohio tonight. He's working for Summitrest Farms this summer.

*May 12*

Saturdays are "work days" here at home. I ended up mowing the lawn in the morning and working in the house.

That night, I drove my car down to Vicki's house. She lives at the other end of the valley. I picked up a video movie, a horror film called, "My Stepfather." In fact, it had me scared enough to check the back seat of my car before I started home!

*May 13*

This morning, like every Sunday, Mom and Dad let me sleep in until 7:30. Then we all got ready for church and Sunday school.

For Mother's Day, the children in our church did a special program. After church, Dad took us out to eat.

The rest of the afternoon was spent on the couch, snoozing. Later, I went out to the barn to work my steers' hair.

Aside from raising Angus cattle, we also raise Labrador Retrievers. Tonight, someone that bought a Christmas puppy brought him out to the house. Then a phone call pulled me away. It was one of my close friends. He just finished final exams, too.

*May 14*

Today was a busy day. The vet came this morning to check the steers' TB shots; both were negative.

Then I had to do some work for Dad. First on the agenda, was to work on our driveway. Our drive has lots of pot holes! I was dead tired after pushing a couple wheelbarrow loads of shale.

When Dad got home, we carried



down our laundry room cabinets. We are slowly renovating our basement. Afterwards, Mom helped me lead the steers.

*May 15*

The steers got their hooves trimmed today, or as my mom says, "they got a manicure." We also had two of our cows trimmed. One of them has foundered, but hopefully we cut enough off the hoof that she will recover.

Tom Templeton, Virginia Angus Association secretary, called about attending their Virginia Breeders Show. It looks like I will be able to go. That call made my day!

Mom had to be at work from 4 to 9 p.m., so I had to make dinner.

Later that evening, Kay and I went in to State College to play racquetball.

*May 16*

Today I acted as Mom's "righthand man." We cleaned the whole house, starting with vaccuming and dusting, then polishing. Finally, we packed away winter clothes in the attic.

I'm in the process of trying to sew a

suit for my Miss American Angus wardrobe. I hope to have it done by the Atlantic National. Around 7 p.m., I went to choir practice at the church. Came home and went to bed early.

*May 17*

It's a cold and rainy day, the kind of day that makes you just want to curl up on the couch with a cup of steaming, hot soup. I rinsed my steers in the rain and

then worked their hair. My calf, Buckler, has good hair, but my steer, Isaiah, still needs to grow some hair.

Mom and Dad left for Virginia at 3 p.m. My aunt is having a baby shower and they wanted to visit. I'll be running the farm until Sunday. Kay will be here, but she's working for a veterinarian.

*May 18*

Not only did I have my regular morning chores, but Dad's as well. After everything was done at the barn, I came in to grab a bagel and some juice for breakfast.

The weather isn't being very cooperative again. I wanted to clip my steers, but I was afraid I would get caught in the rain. Finally, I just went ahead and started clipping. Isaiah behaved well for me, but Buckler was another story. He didn't want to stand still. When 4 p.m. rolled around, I decided to call it a day. I felt so dirty and hairy and itchy! I took a good 20-minute shower.

*May 19*

Believe it or not, the sun made an appearance today. It was a beautiful day. Several of my friends from high school are playing in a softball tournament today. Since I haven't seen them in ages, I went to watch them play.

Vicki came up around 5 p.m. We felt like doing something courageous, so we went canoeing at a nearby lake. We had so much fun. The guys that played softball came out and picked Vicki and me up. Then, we went out for some movies and my favorite food, pizza. Then came back to the house, watched movies and talked until 2:30 a.m.

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*May 20*

Only got three hours of sleep last night. I did the morning chores with one eye open. Then I came in and got ready for Sunday school and church. I don't know how I managed to stay awake through church. I think the good Lord was watching over me!

As soon as I got home I had to change and go to a 4-H beef club meeting. I'm helping out as a leader.

At 4 p.m., I went to the Penn State meats lab for the first of a three-day intense training seminar. It's for my summer job as a beef industry/veal ambassador. I learned so much tonight that I'm excited to get started!

*May 21*

Now that school is over I thought my mind could rest for awhile. Today, however, it had a real workout. From 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., we went through media training with the director of public relations from the National Cattlemen's Association. Mock interview sessions were set up with actual cameras. I learned so much and acquired skills that I can use not only for my summer job but for the rest of my life. I got home around 9 p.m. and had to rinse my steers.

I'm starting to get a little nervous about the Atlantic National. My dad has to go to a cattle conference in Canada until Friday. So Mom and I will be hauling the calves to Timonium alone.

*May 22*

It was rise and shine early again this morning. Off to another day of training at Penn State's meats lab. Today, we observed steers being slaughtered and discussed meat processing. For lunch, we had roast prepared three different ways. At 1 p.m., we wrapped up the session and went over our summer schedules.

This afternoon, I mowed the lawn and did the trim. Dad brought home a set of scales to weigh the steers and a few fall calves. Isaiah weighed 1,300 pounds and Bucker weighed 835 pounds. Since we had some of the cows in the corral, we put fly tags in their ears. Kay took our family and the vets she works with out to dinner.

*May 23*

Today I was busy packing for the Atlantic National. Kay was done with work at noon, so she helped me clip Bucker. He has so much hair and its much easier to make a mistake. I worked on Isaiah.

Vicki and I decided to go into State

College and go dancing. We went to a place called "Mr. C's." Several friends from high school were there.

*May 24*

Mom and I loaded up the panels, blocking chute, fan and show box. We grabbed a bite, then loaded the steers on the trailer. It took around three hours to get to Timonium. I enjoyed riding with Mom because it gave us time to talk.

We drove to the barn and set up the equipment. Most mothers wouldn't volunteer to help pound nails, shovel tan bark and rinse cattle. Not only does Mom help me do all of this, she enjoys it. I know I am blessed with loving parents. I thank God for them each night.

*May 25*

After rinsing the steers, I went up to the show office to sort out showmanship contest ribbons. Later that afternoon, I visited with Mr. and Mrs. Calderazzo and NJAA Board director Lisa Hawkins. Jack Ward, Kurt Hoffman, Brian Fitzgerald and I judged four divisions of showmanship. Later that night, Lisa and I helped out with the Atlantic National games.

*May 26*

Mom and I left the hotel quite early. It was pouring down rain. It had rained all night, so the tie-out area was knee-deep in mud. We quickly rinsed the steers and got them into the barn. Then I headed to the arena to change into my suit and organize junior ribbons.

Heather Ham, Maryland Angus queen, and Sandy Eisenhour, Pennsylvania Angus queen, helped me pass out ribbons throughout the day. Their help was greatly appreciated.

I had to go back and start on my steers in the middle of the bred-and-owned show. Before I could get started on my steers, however, Greg Krueger asked me to show a heifer for him because they had two division champions. I gladly said yes. As it turned out, the heifer I showed was named champion.

Dale Rains and Brenda Walters helped me fit my calves. Meanwhile, Jennifer Calderazzo had to leave early to go to her high school prom so she asked me to show her bull. I had never shown a bull, but I told her I'd try. Her bull earned champion. In the steer show Bucker was fourth and Isaiah, second in their class. Both of them behaved well so I was pleased. My dad made it down for the show.

*May 27*

This morning Dad and I got up early to take care of the steers. After they were rinsed and fed, I changed into my suit and helped carry out the ribbons, banners and plaques.

When the show ended, I helped with the decorations for the Family Night/Awesome Auction. It brought in more than \$40,000. The country band was great and I had a fun time dancing.

*May 28*

All the late nights and early mornings are really starting to catch up with me. This morning I found it so difficult to crawl out of my warm, toastie bed and go out to the barns. My parents insisted on taking care of the steers so that I could go directly to the arena.

At the conclusion of the show, I said goodbye to several people and then left with Mom. After arriving home that evening, we went over to some neighbors to grill hamburgers.

*May 29*

Got up early this morning to help Dad get some cows in to breed. Then it was back to the old grind. I rinsed my steers and brushed them until they were dry. I was exhausted from the weekend, so I went back to bed and slept until 11 a.m. Mom prepared a delicious dinner with strawberry pie for dessert. It was so good!

*May 30*

I woke up to a big surprise this morning—the sun was shining! All the area farmers, including my Dad, are itching to make hay. But it's been so wet this spring.

I got a call today from a 4-H Horse & Pony Club member's mother. She asked if I could give her daughter some showmanship lessons. Horses are my first love. I had a Quarter Horse but had to sell her for college expenses. Someday, I know I'll get some more horses.

*May 31*

It was another beautiful day. Mom and Dad left for work early and left me a list of chores to do. First on the list is spraying thistles. Many of our pastures are full of these sticky weeds. I heat checked the cows and then mowed the lawn.

At 7 p.m. I went to give my horse showmanship lesson. It was so nice to get my hands on a horse again.

AJ