

# A Young Supporter

Former Miss American Angus Emily Tennant is driven to give back to the Angus breed.

by *Katie Allen, Angus Foundation*

Five years ago, Emily Tennant wore the red jacket; crown; and black, beautifully jeweled sash that read “Miss American Angus.” Her warm smile, bright personality, poised presence and eloquent speaking ability made her a great ambassador for the Angus breed as she made her rounds to various cattle shows and events across the United States.

“Being Miss American Angus really gave me the opportunity to meet people all over the country,” Tennant says. “I had just shown cows in North Carolina and east of the Mississippi. The opportunity to meet people from all over, from nearly every state, was just really invaluable.”

Tennant, a native of Greensboro, N.C., says her year as 2007 Miss American Angus was one of the most character-building experiences she has ever had, as she learned much about public speaking, being confident in front of a crowd and showing dedication for the Angus breed. Through her network of friends and the contacts she made while serving as Miss American Angus, she remains heavily involved in the breed and continues to participate in Angus events.

## Balancing roles

Tennant just finished her third year in pharmacy school at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She completed her bachelor’s degree in animal science from North Carolina State University. When Tennant is not busy with schoolwork and cracking the pharmacology books, she takes time to enjoy her cattle.

“We have a small herd of cows in Greensboro, and I commute back to take care of them on the weekends and sometimes during the week,” Tennant says.

Tennant has been awarded undergraduate and graduate student general scholarships from the Angus Foundation. Her general undergraduate scholarship was one of the two Richard L. Spader \$5,000 scholarships



given in 2007. She was an American Angus Auxiliary scholarship winner, and, in 2009, she was also awarded the *Certified Angus Beef*® (CAB®) Mick Colvin Scholarship. These scholarships are all endowed within the Angus Foundation. Tennant says the scholarship support helped her in both her undergraduate and graduate studies.

“Because of the scholarships I received

from the Angus Foundation during my time as an undergraduate, I was able to study abroad,” Tennant says. “I studied beef cattle and sheep production in New Zealand. The financial support from the Foundation made that possible.”

In addition to receiving scholarship support, Tennant also participated in the Leaders Engaged in Angus Development (LEAD) conference as a National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) member, and a Cattlemen’s Boot Camp as an Angus breeder. She recently attended the American Angus Auxiliary’s Women Connected conference that took place in Saint Joseph, Mo., in April.

The Angus Foundation financially supported all of these conferences.

## Donor and advocate

Tennant says there are many reasons why she believes it is important to support the Angus Foundation.

“The Foundation really offers a lot of opportunities to both students and to producers,” she says. “As a producer and as a youth, I was able to participate in conferences supported by the Foundation. The Foundation has also supported me and so many other youth through scholarship opportunities. It has been an organization that has helped me tremendously, and now the tables have turned, and it’s time for me to give back.”

Give back she does. Tennant and her parents, Stan and Maggie, give back to the Angus Foundation in a variety of ways — from contributing to the annual fund to signing up for the Angus Platinum Visa® credit card with Intrust Bank.

Tennant, an Angus credit card holder, felt signing up for and using the card was an easy way to give back to the Angus Foundation.

“I got an Angus credit card because it was an easy way for me to support the Angus Foundation in everyday activities — things that I really don’t even think about,



PHOTO BY MICKY WILSON

► 2006 Miss American Angus Mallory Trosper, Hamilton, Mo., pins the 2007 Miss American Angus Emily Tennant, Greensburg, N.C., at the 2007 National Angus Show.

such as buying gas or buying groceries,” she says. Using the Angus credit card allows a percentage of her purchases to go back to the Angus Foundation with no additional effort on her part.

### **Helping others succeed**

Many different types of donors invest in the Angus Foundation in a variety of ways and by contributing many different amounts. Angus Foundation President Milford Jenkins says active young donors mean a great deal to the Angus Foundation.

“In essence, regardless of their age or number of years raising Angus cattle, our Angus breeders and members across the country make up, if you will, our core ‘alumni’ base of potential financial benefactors for the Angus Foundation,” Jenkins says. “One can only be moved,

especially when a younger Angus breeder and Association member such as Emily, takes it upon themselves to search out and engage opportunities to give back financially to the Angus breed that has meant so much to them. Emily’s giving back should be an inspiration to all of us raising Angus cattle, regardless of where we are at in our lives, young or old.”

The Angus Foundation will continue to provide many opportunities for learning and growth for Angus breeders and youth. This is why it supported women in the industry, including Tennant, by funding the Women Connected conference for the first time this year in celebrating the American Angus Auxiliary’s 60th anniversary.

Tennant signed up for the conference to meet people and to add to that network of Angus friends she developed as an NJAA

member and as Miss American Angus. She says the women she met at the conference were fun to get to know, and she will enjoy keeping in contact with them, as well as sharing with others back home what she learned from speakers and her fellow women participants at the conference.

“We share similar interests. We share similar problems and opportunities that we face every day. We’ve been able to communicate with each other and share ideas and ways that we can spread a good and positive influence in beef production, and we can also build a network of support for each other,” she says.



**Editor’s Note:** *Katie Allen is director of marketing and public relations for the Angus Foundation.*