

Packed And Ready To Compete At State Pageant

BY LOU ANN GOOD

COLUMBIA — On Wednesday, Julie Greider's pink satin gown hung in the closet, her luggage stood nearby. And on the dining room table, her prized scrapbook, recording her events as Lancaster's reigning dairy princess, was ready for judging at this weekend's state dairy princess competition.

Julie, along with 39 other contestants, spent hours preparing for the annual pageant. Many participants needed to miss school, work and social hours to get their scrapbooks, costumes and skits ready for the promotional competition.

Julie's dad, Robert, said, "Julie hasn't been able to help us much in the past two weeks." But he is not complaining. He and his wife, Marian, consider Julie's job of speaking for the dairy industry a



This week Julie Greider, Lancaster County Dairy Princess, packed her bags to attend the state pageant held from Thursday through Friday in Harrisburg.

privilege. This is his second daughter who was named the county dairy princess. In 1981,

Deb (now Garber) was first state runnerup.

Normally Julie, who works full-time on her parents' farm, is grateful that her parents are understanding of her schedule. Nonetheless, she said, "I'm missing my favorite job—corn harvesting. I like running the baler for chopping." She finds it relaxing to milk their 120 cows, which requires about three hour stints twice daily.

Labeled a perfectionist by her dad, Julie demonstrates that trait by the detailed work she has put into her scrapbook, which is required of all county princesses. Julie has meticulously crossstitched four cows on her cover design. Photos, stenciling, and typewritten captions are attractively displayed inside. Included are some newspaper articles promoting nutrition that Julie has written herself. Julie said, "Even if I don't win, it's nice to have this scrapbook to refer to in years to come."

Although some others complain about store promotions, Julie does not. She said, "I think they are really beneficial." If shoppers ignore her or refuse the handouts, she said, "I keep a friendly smile. Everyone needs to take some rejection." She added, "Basically I like everything about being a dairy princess."

If there is anything she is a little bit nervous about, it's the judges' interview. She said, "I like to prepare, but there's really no way to prepare for that."

As county princess, Julie will begin a public speaking course in October. In the meantime, she has been getting plenty of practice speaking to groups whose ages range from preschoolers to senior citizens. She was also commencement speaker for her graduation from Hempfield High School this past June. In school, she was a member of the National Honor Society and played field hockey and basketball. She is an active member of St. Paul's United Methodist Church. As a 4-H baby beef member, Julie is grooming her steer, Coby, for competition in the Lampeter Fair next week.

The next to youngest of seven children, Julie and her one brother are the only ones who have continued on the farm. Julie said, "I was thinking about being a paralegal, but now I'm seriously considering staying on the farm."

Like the 39 other girls who attend the competition this week, Julie considers it an honor to represent the dairy industry. She said, "Only one can win the state crown, but all can help the industry."



Flip through this scrapbook compiled by Julie Greider and you can see it's a tribute to her perfectionist tendencies to do things precisely and with detail.



Julie has more than herself to prepare for competition. She is entering her steer, Coby, in the Lampeter Fair next week.

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