

Kid's KOrner

Never Too Young To Work Toward Goals

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Bedford Co. Correspondent
BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) —

"I'm a fifth generation dairy farmer and proud of it," says Bedford County's second dairy maid, Janelle Koontz, daughter of Wayne and Kathy Koontz.

Janelle lives on the farm started by her great-great-grandfather. It is known as Stan-El Jerseys located at Bedford RD 4.

At 13, Janelle has two Jersey cows of her own. "Actually 2½," she laughs. "I am working to pay off my third cow."

"She is working," agrees her dad. Janelle does all of the entries for the Stan-El Jerseys, helps with feeding and silo filling, and is on hand for the milking every Sunday and any other day she is needed.

Being busy on the farm doesn't stop her from excelling in outside activities. She participates in Odessey of the Mind, and, last year attended the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science. There, Janelle won top honors for her project of BST studies.

BST is a subject that is very controversial in farming today. It involves giving a cow hormone shots to increase milk production. Some think this is good and others think it is bad. Janelle presented both sides of the story.

To complete her research in this field, she worked with a professor at Penn State University. "The professor told me he had only worked with graduate students on a project of this magnitude before," she says.

"I also realize that my generation is inheriting an environment with a lot of problems," Janelle says. For this reason, she participates in Environthon, a young

people's group involved in cleaning the environment.

She urges her peers not to smoke and to stay out of the sun as much as possible through being a member of the Young Against Cancer organization.

Despite all this, Bedford County's Dairy Maid finds time to sing in the choir at the Yeager Lutheran Church and is also a frequent soloist. She is a member of the honor society and on the Bedford Middle School Yearbook Staff and captain of her cheerleading squad.

As the Dairy Maid, it has been her job this year to hand out thousands of pamphlets at fairs, festivals, and parades.

"My goal," she admits, smiling broadly, "is to some day be the Jersey Jug Queen."

Already well on her way, Janelle has a room full of trophies she has won for her cows, Sweet Potato and Sweet and Sour. Until this year, her cows had produced a number of bull calves, including twins, born on Janelle's birthday.

This year, however, Sweet Potato, presented Janelle with her first heifer calf.

"Of course Jerseys are my favorite," she says. "That's what my family has always had. But, as the dairy maid, I can't promote any one breed of cows. I would like people to know, however, that there are brown cows. Many seem to think that all cows are black and white.

"But," admits this bright young lady, "I do have a higher goal than being any kind of a dairy queen. I want to eventually attend college to be a veterinarian. I know it will be tough. But, with hard work, I think I can do it."



Janelle and the Koontz family border collie



Janelle brushing one of the young calves at the Stan-El Jersey Farm located at Bedford RD 4.



Bottle feeding her first helper calf.

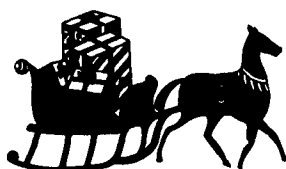
Readers Write

Dear Readers,

I am 10 years old. I live on a dairy farm. I have two brothers and two sisters: Brenda, 11; Nelson Ray, 8; Norman, 6; and Joanne, 2. We milk 44 cows. We have eight calves. I like to feed them. I like washing dishes. My birthday is November 6. My jobs in the evening are washing dishes and sweeping the floor. We put a conveyer in the barn.

I like school. My grandma has a store. I help her. Sometimes I bag candy. Daddy shot a goose for Sunday dinner. We have a lot of fun playing our new game called "Operation."

Sandra Jane Brubaker
Wolmelsdorf



Janelle Koontz, Bedford County's Dairy Princess.