

# Life On The Farm For 'Moo Queen'

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**LERAYSVILLE** (Bradford Co.) — "Moo Queen" is the name Robin Wilbur is affectionally dubbed by her teachers and friends in Bradford County, but in other counties across the state, Robin is known as the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess.

Regardless of whether she is called Moo Queen, Dairy Princess, or Robin, she responds with the same cheery smile and enthusiastic conversation that ultimately includes plugs for using dairy products.

"I want to tell everyone I meet the truth about dairy products. So many people have so many misconceptions about dairy products, especially butter," Robin said. "I like to tell people: "Can you believe it? A cow eats 50 pounds a day to make milk for us."

To impress the nutrient value of milk upon her listeners, Robin tells them, "One glass of milk has more calcium than eight pounds of tuna. Just imagine, to get the same calcium from tuna that you do from daily drinking four glasses of milk, you would need to eat 32 pounds of tuna every day."

Robin said that her reign has been a learning experience about the dairy industry and life in general.

"Before I was dairy princess, I knew what it took to raise cows and work on the farm, but since I became dairy princess, I understand all the work that is done by farm organizations and the promotional services."

Robin lives in a very rural area of Bradford County that has mostly dirt roads. "If a car is coming, you get in the field. Our lifestyle is a lot different than the places I go for promotional activities like Harrisburg," Cindy said.

Robin prefers Bradford County. She said, "It's a pretty area. We live on a hill with a beautiful view. Farming's a great life and allows me to spend more time with my parents than most of my friends spend with theirs. We learn to work together as a family. Even my 70-year-old grandmother goes to the barn every day."

As far as the farm work goes, Robin said, "I'd rather be in the barn than work in the fields."

"She never complains about helping," her dad, Arlyn, said.

"If we get home late, and say tell the kids we need extra help in the barn, they never argue or complain, they get dressed in barn clothes right away," Robin's mother, Arlene, reported.

Robin said that when the hired man has his weekly days off, it is she who carries 35 bushel baskets



"I'm really a farm girl a heart," Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Robin Wilbur said. "And I've got muscles from all the lifting I do on the farm to prove it."

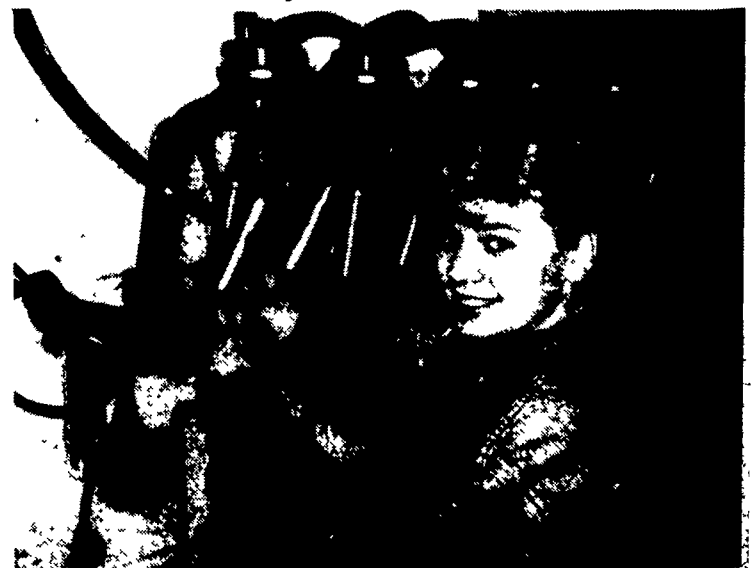


Robin hopes this little one will win her some ribbons at the many shows in which she participates both in New York and in Pennsylvania.

of silage to the heifer barn. The Wilburs have 51 milking cows and use a pipeline milking system with five milkers.

Robin is not paid for her chores nor does she think she should be. She said, "My parents provide a roof over my head and feed me. I believe it is my responsibility to help them with the work."

Each year, she sells the 4-H pig



Robin Wilbur prepares for milking Holsteins on their 110-acre farm in LeRaysville, Bedford County.

that she raised in order to have money to buy her school clothes. She said that she also is responsible to pay for her own college. For that reason, she is hoping that the many scholarships for which she applied will materialize. With her grades, she should not have any problem.

Because of all the promotional events she attends, Robin hasn't been able to spend a full week at school since she was crowned in September. But that hasn't hindered her straight A status.

"My teachers and classmates have been great about helping me.

Some teachers tape the classroom discussion and my friends share their notes with me," Robin said. "Everyone is so supportive."

Because of schedule conflicts, this is the first year that Robin is able to be an FFA member. She is reporter for her chapter and wishes that she could have been in FFA before this year.

In a school of 500 students with only 77 in her graduating class, Robin said she knows almost everyone. School and community spirit are high. "We live in a really rural area that is an hour away from



As parents of Robin, Arlene and Arlyn Wilbur said that their life has changed. By chauffeuring Robin to the many promotional events, they have learned much more about the dairy industry in the state. "After Robin's reign is over, I think we will still want to attend many of the farm organizations," Arlene said, "because we learn so much."



Freckles the St. Bernard gets lots of hugs from Robin whenever she gets home from her numerous scheduled promotions on behalf of the dairy industry.