

Kid's KOrner

Lebanon Lil' Miss Bethanie Heagy Finds Work Is Fun

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) —

Although only five years old, Bethanie Heagy knows more about the farm and dairy products than many adults.

She is Lebanon County's Lil' Miss Dairy Princess. She finds her job handing out stickers, coloring books, cow erasers, and cheese a fun job. She likes to wear her crown and banner when she hands out cheese.

"I like to eat cheese, lots of cheese. Cheese comes from cows," Bethany said.

Bethanie helps her parents, Luke and Carol Heagy, with the dairy herd on their 80-acre farm in Lebanon County.

"Each evening I get the cows in all by myself," Bethanie said. "I go out to the pasture and say, 'Ho...Ho....' and the cows go."

When the 65 cows are in the barn, Bethanie said, "I dip the cows. I carry the milker out. I feed the calves."

Bethanie's mother said, "Milk-ing time is family time. Everyone

goes to the barn and helps in the evening."

When her jobs are finished in the barn, Bethanie rides bike in the barn.

"We all ride bike in the barn," Bethanie said, meaning her brother and sister ride tricycles too. "It's lots of fun."

Everywhere she goes, Bethanie finds work is fun. She is proud that she is her mother's big helper. Because Bethanie has a two-year-old brother and a sister who are twins, she finds plenty to do. Without pausing, Bethanie chatters about the many things she does each day.

"When I wake up, I like to go downstairs and feed Billy the canary. I get pillows and stack them up and plunk them down for a chair. I like to read books to Micah and Faith," Bethanie said.

"I like to tie shoes, help Mom in the kitchen, wash dishes, and put dishes away from the dishwasher," she said. "I help Mom bake cookies, bread, and cinnamon rolls. I put trash in bags, sweep the porch, wash the porch, scrub windows,



Bethanie Heagy goes to the pasture to lead the cows to the barn for the evening milking. "I say, 'Ho...Ho....' and they go," said Bethanie.



Bethanie finds her chickens have laid a lot of eggs for her to collect.

walls, and floors.

"I help get cotton for the cows, strip cows, go to dairy princess things, clean my room, and be Mom's big helper.

"The best thing is to go to Sunday school and Junior church. I like to sing in the choir."

With such an impressive list of things to do, Bethanie was asked if there was anything that she did not enjoy doing. Sure enough, she had a few.

She said, "I don't like to pick up toys. I don't like to play with Cocky Locky the rooster because he flaps and scratches me."

Bethanie said that Cocky Locky is now in a pen where the rooster can't bother her when she gathers eggs from the chickens.

At the end of a busy day, Bethanie said, "I like hot water, splashy baths especially when I'm cold. Then I like to get out of the water and sit in front of the heater where I read a story before I go to bed.

"I like tractors and cows. I want to grow up to be a farmer's wife," Bethanie said.

When Bethanie entered the pageant last year to try for the Lebanon County Li'l Miss title, she recited the following poem during the competition. Bethanie's mother helped her make it up by changing the words from another poem.

"Little Miss Muffet sat on a tuffet, thanking Jesus for curds and

whey. Along came a spider and sat down beside her and listened to Miss Muffet pray:

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for good things to eat like milk, butter, and ice cream sweet. I really don't see how you feed this big world, the lions, tigers, the pigs with tails curled. Puppies and rabbits, sheep and cats on your food they dine. So thank you, Lord Jesus, for my kitty's food and mine."



Bethanie rings the dinner bell. "I don't ring it to tell people to come for dinner, I just ring it for fun," Bethanie said.



The Heagy family includes parents, Luke and Carol, Bethanie, and two-year-old twins, Faith and Micah.