



Lebanon County Dairy Princess Karen Lentz and her dad, Bob, stand in the meadow with the heifers that they raise.

Life With Lebanon County Dairy Princess Karen Lentz

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff
LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Unlike many dairy princesses, Karen Lentz did not grow up wishing for a tiara and banner.

"But when I saw what the reign did for my friends like Becky Sonnen (1988 state dairy princess), Clarinda Leatherman (1988 state alternate) and Terry Hill, (1990 Lebanon County Dairy Princess) I changed my mind," Karen said.

Karen is glad that she did. She was crowned Lebanon County Dairy Princess a year ago and went on to become one of the finalists at the state pageant. More than the tiara and banner, Karen enjoys spending time with the many persons she has met through the program.

Her duties have taught her to become inventive and adaptable such as the time she was helping students make homemade ice cream in coffee cans. Because it was a hot day, the teachers wanted the students to work outside. As the students rolled the cans across the macadam, it became apparent that ice cream was not hardening inside them because the macadam was too warm. Instead of eating ice cream, the children drank "milkshakes."

For the most part, Karen said that her reign has been enjoyable although she had a few moments of panic shortly after she was crowned. While well wishers were congratulating her, the booking chairman thrust a stack of papers to her and said, "Sign this..."

sign...this...sign this."

"I thought what am I getting myself into?" Karen recalled. As it turned out, Karen wasn't signing away total control of her life as she had feared. Instead, she was signing forms for eligibility to the state pageant.

It was there, that Karen was named one of the seven finalists for the state title, met another contestant who will become her college roommate at Penn State this fall, and established friendships across the state.

Karen lives with her parents Bob and Sandy Lentz. She has a married sister, Brenda, and a brother, David, 20, who is a Penn State student.

The Lentz family moved off their Lebanon County farm in 1987 but continue to raise 20 heifers in the meadow bordering their home. Karen also owns a couple of Holsteins, which she boards with a local farmer.

Although quite active in agricultural events, Karen isn't a "hands on" farm girl. She doesn't like milking or showing cows.

She said, "My brother said that I have some good cows so I should show them. Because I respect his opinion, I did show them, but I don't enjoy showing."

When her brother encouraged her to join the dairy bowl team, sponsored by the Junior Holstein Club, Karen was skeptical. It sounded like a lot of hard work and not much fun. Surprisingly, Karen found out she loved the challenge of memorizing facts and figures

about the dairy industry.

"It made it a lot more exciting because my cousin was also a member of the Dairy Bowl team. We were so competitive, we'd go to the practice just to show off to each other," she said.

The competition with other team members spurred her to dedicate six years in Dairy Bowl membership. Her 1990 team won the state dairy bowl title and went on to compete in national competition. Unfortunately, when Karen arrived at the national contest, she and another member were disqualified because the national organization interpreted the age eligibility rules differently than the state does.

Karen is a member of the Junior Advisory Committee for the Pennsylvania Holstein Association, secretary of the Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Club, president for three years of the Norlecco 4-H Dairy Club.

As a senior at Northern Lebanon High School, Karen has been able to arrange her schedule so that she only needs to attend morning classes. Her flexible schedule allows her to take off whenever she has a dairy promotion.

For three years in high school, Karen has been a peer counselor, who tutors students with problems that restrict them for learning. She also is a member of SHADE (Students Helping to Aid the Disabled Elderly) and a member of the National Honor Society.

Before her coronation, Karen expected to become an elementary school teacher. That has changed.

She said, "When I started going into schools for dairy promotion, it wasn't at all like I expected. I don't really like the school atmosphere."

What she does like is radio promotions. Karen does radio spots promoting dairy products for three different stations.

She said, "I had a public speaking class that really helped teach me to talk slower and control voice volume. Doing the spots is my favorite promotion. It's exciting to hear your own voice."

Karen also enjoys singing and has participated in school musicals, chorus, and in the church choir at Mount Zion Road Church of the Brethren.

Karen is employed part time at the Jonestown Food Market and at the Farmers' Wife Restaurant. Recently, she completed a cake decorating class.



Karen spends a few moments with her dog.

(Turn to Page B15)

See your nearest
NEW HOLLAND
Dealer for Dependable
Equipment and
Dependable Service:

PENNSYLVANIA

Annville, PA BHM Farm Equipment, Inc. RD1, Rte. 934 717-867-2211	Hughesville, PA Farnsworth Farm Supplies, Inc. 103 Cemetery Street 717-584-2106
--	---

Carlisle, PA R&W Equipment Co. 35 East Willow Street 717-243-2686	New Holland, PA A.B.C. Groff, Inc. 110 South Railroad 717-354-4191
--	---

Davidsburg, PA
George N. Gross, Inc.
R.D. 2, Dover, PA
717-292-1673

Oley, PA
C.J. Wonsidler Bros.
R.D. 2
215-987-6257

Elizabethtown, PA
Messick Farm
Equipment, Inc.
Rt. 283 - Rheem's Exit
717-367-1319

Pitman, PA
Schreffler Equipment
Pitman, PA
717-648-1120

Gettysburg, PA
Yingling Implements,
Inc.
3291 Taneytown Rd.
717-359-4848

Halifax, PA
Sweigard Bros.
R.D. 3, Box 13
717-896-3414

Quakertown, PA
C.J. Wonsidler Bros.
R.D. 1
215-536-1935

Honey Brook, PA
Dependable Motor Co.
East Main Street
215-273-3131
215-273-3737

Tamaqua, PA
Charles S. Snyder, Inc.
R.D. 3
717-386-5945

Honey Grove, PA
Norman D. Clark
& Son, Inc.
Honey Grove, PA
717-734-3682
Loysville, PA
717-789-3117

West Grove, PA
S.G. Lewis & Son, Inc.
R.D. 2, Box 66
215-869-2214

MARYLAND

Frederick, MD
Ceresville
Ford New Holland, Inc.
Rt. 26 East
301-662-4197
Outside MD,
800-331-9122

Hagerstown, MD
Antietam Ford Tractor
301-791-1200

NEW JERSEY

Bridgeton, N.J. Leslie G. Fogg, Inc. Canton & Stow Creek Landing Rd. 609-451-2727 609-935-5145	Washington, NJ Smith Tractor & Equip., Inc. 15 Hillcrest Ave. 201-689-7900
---	--

Woodstown, NJ
Owen Supply Co.
Broad Street &
East Avenue
609-769-0308