

Amy Takes Time For Dairy Promotion

LINDA WILLIAMS
Bedford Co. Correspondent
EVERETT (Bedford Co.) — Bouncy, bubbly, Amy Mearkle has wanted to be a dairy princess ever since she was Bedford County's first Dairy Maid in 1991. "I believe in it," she says. She is also concerned that more girls aren't going out for the contest. "There is too much competition for time," she says. "Girls are involved in sports these days and there just aren't enough hours. Some farm daughters are so busy on the farm, their families can't spare them."

But, despite this, Amy hopes to get the interest growing again. "Next year I want to see some contestants," she says. "When the first Bedford County contest was held there were 20 contestants. I want it to be that way again." Meantime, she is taking her new position seriously and has already begun writing newspaper articles, doing radio spots, and making appearances as Bedford County's new Dairy Princess. The daughter of Linwood and Marjorie Mearkle, Amy has worked on the farm since she was able to work. "I do a lot of the evening milking," she says. "I try to be around on weekends in the sum-

mer to milk to give my brother a break, and I also tend the calves." Amy's brother and sister-in-law, as well as their four children, all live and work on the Mearkle's 400-acre farm which supports 100 head of Holsteins. About 65 of these are producing at the present time. In addition to her farm work, Amy works part time as a teller at the Everett Bank. She says she is pleased with what the Dairy Princess contest offers in Bedford County and with what the princess can offer the public. Her skit was on the "Story of

Milk," set to the tune of Bette Midler's "Story of Love," and her speech was entitled, "Don't Give Your Bones a Break." The crowning was held on Friday evening, June 18, at the Arena Restaurant in Bedford. In addition to her farm and bank job, Amy is an officer in the Everett High Student Council where she will be a senior this fall. She is also on the Environthon Team, in the Spanish Honor Society, Language & Culture Club, and the Pennsylvania Jr. Academy of Science. She is a member of the Rockville Independent Church Youth Group and has given many community service hours to the dairy committee.

In between all this she finds some time for her hobby of horseback riding. "My one horse is as old as I am," she says. "Being Bedford County's dairy princess should be a good foundation for a future career in communications, hopefully, broadcasting," Amy admits. "I once got to do some work on the Channel 10 Action News for Kids TV Show," she continues. "I never got communications out of my system after that." "I hope I am able to convey my love for the dairy industry through communicating through all medias, by speaking, and writing," Amy says. Chosen Bedford County's Dairy Maid for 1993 was Jennifer Brumbaugh, 15-year-old, daughter of Roger and Kathleen Brumbaugh of Saxton.

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Amy Mearkle, Bedford County's new dairy princess, feeds the calves on her family farm near Everett.

Apple Butter Contest

WINCHESTER, Va. — The Virginia Championship Apple Butter Making Contest will be held on Saturday, September 18, in the Winchester Recreation Park. The annual event is held in conjunction with the Rotary Club's Apple Harvest Festival and affords the participants an opportunity to win more than \$700 in prize money.

The contest is sponsored by the Frederick County Extension Office and the Winchester/Frederick County Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with area apple producers and support businesses. The apple butter must be made in the park on the day of the contest and can be sold on both Saturday and Sunday during the Festival.

If you are interested in trying to unseat the 1992 Virginia Apple Butter Making Champion — Frederick County 4-H Leaders Association — contact the Frederick County Extension Service by writing to: Second Floor, Frederick County Courthouse, 20 North Loudoun Street, Winchester, VA 22601; or phoning (703) 665-5699 for rules and an entry form.

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