



Stacy feeds hay to heifers in part of the new Virginia-style barn at her family's dairy farm.

Dairy Princess Does

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Last year, the couple was involved in a short-lived battle to keep a significant portion of their farm from being rezoned to residential. Though no one had contacted the Kralls about their inten-

tions with the farm, local municipal officials had proposed changing the farm zoning, which would have changed the value of the property and raised taxes on the dairy couple.

With the community waste-

water project going through their property, the Kralls do have the option of cashing in on the investment of local and state funds to install these community services the Kralls don't want and turn the dairy farm into a "house farm." However, they said they don't intend to take that route.

In the meantime, they milk 80



Stacy tries on her new dairy princess tiara.

Holsteins out of a southern-facing, tie-stall bank barn that is situated at the base of a large, steep, but rounded hill.

In fact, the hill is what Stacy used to help develop an affinity for skiing. Something that she gets to do sometimes at a relatively close public skiing facility in Berks County.

And several years ago, the hill was a source of amusement for the Krall family. At night, when the cows were left out, a couple of Stacy's cows, especially one, she said, would come around the back of the house to be close to Stacy's bed-

room window and would answer when Stacy called.

Stacy and her brother Jason are as committed to farming as are their parents.

A modern, fenced manure storage pit was constructed several years ago and a southern-facing, large, Virginia-style heifer facility is in the final stages of completion. Several heifer pens are currently being used.

There's another interesting feature to the farm where Stacy lives.

The Krall farm is located between two prominent agricultural facilities in Lebanon County — the Lebanon Area Fairgrounds to the northeast, and the Quentin Riding Club to the west.

Standing at the farm, it can almost seem as though two different activities, at opposite ends of the agricultural spectrum, are calling: one being the lure of liesure, the other the desire to excel in production and living skills.

While Stacy said riding horse is one of her favorite hobbies, she said she has no interest in the fancy riding skills, though she said she found it interesting.

She said she better enjoys her cows and the activities which keep her busy. And now, at 16, being able to drive should enable her to attend more functions without having to depend on her parents or others to provide transportation.

Stacy and her brother Jason are fairly well known among the local agricultural community, especially for their record of wins at the Southeastern Regional 4-H Market Hog Derby. Either one, the other, or both, have had a champion in the event.

The contest, supported through the Penn State Extension Service, provides an opportunity for youth to compete with raising market hogs, using the same scoring system and incentives as the National Pork Producers Council endorses and commercial producers use.

Stacy said that while she enjoys her dairy cattle more, raising the market hogs has provided more money and has allowed her to use the money raising hogs to buy Holstein calves.

In fact, one of hers, Rayola A-Mist Mars Shasta, a member of the milking string, is almost a pet to Stacy. She can walk into a pasture field and Shasta will walk up to her out of the herd and follow commands. That helps when showing in the ring, but it also helps having cows with pleasant dispositions to work with, she said.

Her chores around the farm include a range of activities. Because both her parents work the farm, Stacy has taken over many of the household chores, such as making family meals, taking lunch out to the field when the family can't come in from haying.

She said a typical day is awaking at 5:30 a.m., milking cows, feeding calves, letting the cows out, making breakfast, doing housework, scraping the stables down, doing more housework, and then making lunch, etc..

Both her mother and father work as a team on the farm, along with some hired help. Her brother Jason is also a steady and dependable worker and helps with fieldwork and barn work.

But she is now also a dairy princess and she said she enjoys helping to promote milk, though she said she still is nervous about doing promotions, until the event starts getting underway.

"I think of what I'm going to do," she said, "how I can present my message to people."

She said her most favorite promotions as a dairy maid was going to schools to visit classrooms. She said the classroom promotions used activities that involved the class, such as making ice cream, pudding, or butter. "That's always fun, watching the kids," she said, adding that she has spoken before classes of grade 1, 2, 3 and sometimes kindergarten students. "I enjoy the older kids better, because they have better attention and are more enthusiastic."

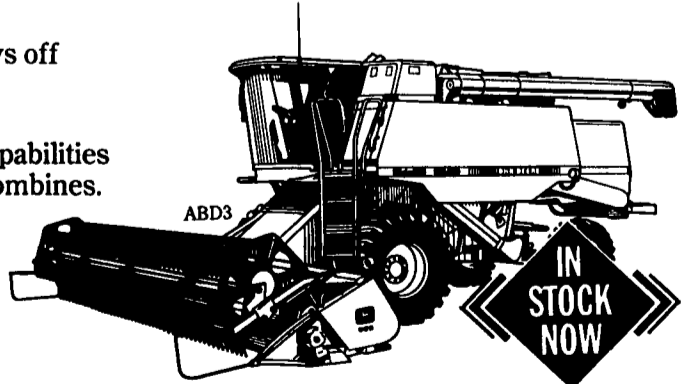
As far as making the transition from dairy maid to dairy princess, she said, "I like it better (being a dairy princess). I get to do more things, going out talking to people, telling them about the dairy industry."

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