

Bedford County Teen Is Jersey Jug Queen

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BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) —

Being crowned Jersey Jug Queen was one of the dreams of Janelle Koontz. It was a dream that came true fast following on the heels of her state Jersey crown and also that of being named Fall Foliage Queen of Bedford County.

At 16, the daughter of Wayne and Nancy Koontz, says her best asset is a "gift of gab". It's an important asset when sitting down with adult judges who are looking for that element of maturity not always seen in teenage girls.

Held in Louisville, Kentucky, the Jersey Jug Futurity Queen reigns over the annual Jersey Futurity contest.

This contest actually begins three years prior to the event with Jersey farmers from across the country entering a calf in the contest which will not take place for three years.

Girls sharing the spotlight with Janelle were 15 state queens from across the United States.

Arriving on a Friday night,

Janelle says the first event was a get-acquainted pizza party. Saturday began with handing out ribbons at the 4-H Junior show interspersed with judge interviews.

Janelle was one of the three busiest gals in the contest taking time out to show one of her own Jersey cows.

Following a full day of judging (both girls and cows), it was time for the banquet followed by the pageant.

"The girls were so good," Janelle said, "They could only narrow it down to six finalists. Ordinarily there are five."

Each of the 15 girls was asked one impromptu question and Janelle says hers was, "What quality do you have that would make you a good representative of the American Jersey Cattle Association."

"I told them my family and friends all tell me I have a gift of gab," Janelle said as she beams her perfect smile.

"I added that if I didn't have the answer, I would find it for them."

The second question asked of

each of the six finalists was, "If you were chosen as National Jersey Queen to go before Congress to convince them of the importance of the dairy industry on the economy and the health of America, what would you say?"

Janelle was quick with an answer. "I would ask them how many meals each of them ate a day which included dairy products and I would name them: milk, butter, cheese, yogurt, cottage cheese, ice cream."

"Then, I would tell them that while we may need a health care plan in America, dairy products could help to improve the general health of all Americans."

One of two of the youngest contestants in the contest, Janelle competed mostly against college students. "The judges told me they liked the way I looked them in the eyes," she said.

The following day, Janelle began her queenly duties by reigning over the Futurity contest. "It was beautiful," she adds. "There was green sawdust everywhere designed to look like grass. And, the cows were numbered and presented just as the queen contestants had been.

After the top cows are selected by appearance, stature, etc., each is milked out to determine if productivity is also present.

When not fulfilling the duties of her various royal titles, Janelle is a busy junior at Bedford High School.

She will play Guenivere in the musical, "Camelot". She has also been chosen to attend district chorus.

Janelle is junior class vice president; on the Student Council Executive Board; participated in the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science; is a varsity cheerleader and a Red Cross swimming instructor.

She has recently made application to the 4-H ambassador program.

While her future plans keep changing, she now hopes to work in the field of food sciences or ag administration and will probably attend Penn State University.



Janelle Koontz is crowned Jersey Jug Queen at Louisville, Kentucky. Others in the photo include the South Carolina State Queen who was first runner-up; the outgoing queen; and the state queen from Tennessee, second runner-up.

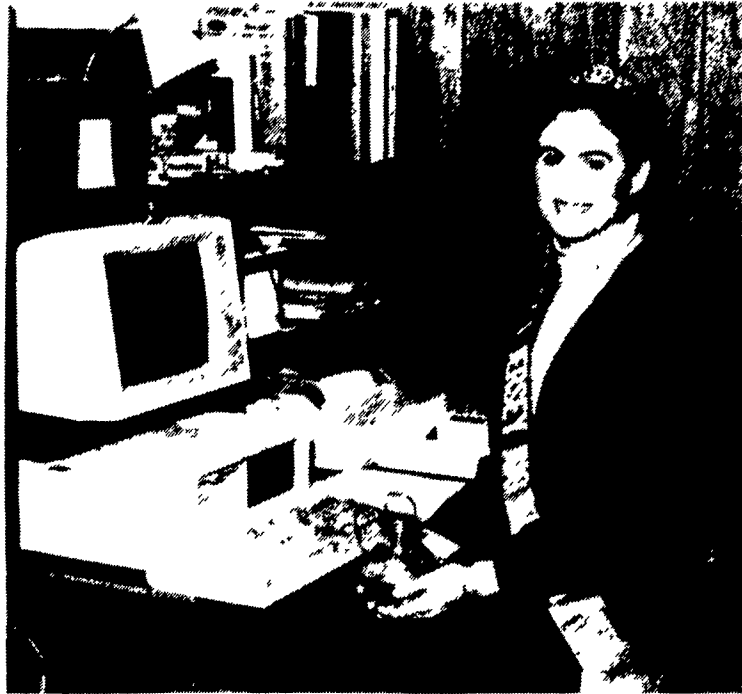
Despite her busy schedule, dad, Wayne, keeps her busy at the barn. It is Janelle's job to do the computer work that the farm requires. "It piles up sometimes, but no one does it for me," she admits.

This busy young lady has nine cows of her own including one which gave her nine bulls before presenting her with a heifer calf on

her 16th birthday. "I named her 'Sweet Sixteen,'" Janelle laughs.

She has been showing cows since she was big enough to hold a halter.

The Koontz family lives on a 550-acre farm owned by Edna Koontz, and Leased by Wayne. They milk 90 registered Jerseys.



Janelle wearing her crown and holding the sterling silver jug she won at Louisville.



Janelle and the Jersey she took to Louisville. In national competition, the cow placed ninth in its class.

Appalachian Tales Told At Hershey

HERSHEY (Dauphin Co.) — Yarns will be spun on Saturday, December 10 at the Hershey Museum when The Puppet Factory presents "Appalachian Tales" at 1:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. The Puppeteers will share the story of "Wicked John and the Hairy Man" using puppets, storytelling and authentic music to teach children about friendship as they retell some Appalachian mountain tales that are full of humor, trickery and surprises! The performances are aimed at children aged five through twelve years, and each is approximately 45 minutes long. There will be a chance to meet the puppeteers and the puppets between shows.

The Puppet Factory is a professional, non-profit touring puppet theater. Since 1969, The Puppet Factory has been entertaining children throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Their humorous stories encourage audience response.

The show is free with Museum admission: adults \$4; youth(ages 3-15) \$1.75.



Puppeteers Carolyn Koerber and Joanne Bouton of the Puppet Factory present "Appalachian Tales" at the Hershey Museum on Saturday, December 10, 1994, 1:30 and 3 p.m. The tales they tell are full of humor, trickery and surprises! Seating is first-come, first-served and is free with museum admission.