

Centre County's Dairy Princess Begins Duties

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BELLEFONTE (Centre Co.)—

"She'll be able to do a good job. She's pretty much grown up with dairy cows. She'll be able to get that message across."

That vote of confidence for Centre County's Dairy princess comes from an important person close to her — her mother. Crowned Centre County's Dairy Princess at her May 25th coronation, Joleen Faye Martin of Bellefonte does have a message to tell about dairying and its healthful products. And she does it in several different ways — serving as dairy princess, helping a neighbor milk occasionally, working part time at Pappy's Place where they make homemade ice cream, and listening to the advice of another, more experienced Centre County Dairy Princess — State Alternate Rachel Tanis.

"I just hope to do as much as I can. My theme, I guess, is how hard it is to keep a family farm. That means a lot to me."

The daughter of Dave and Sara Martin, Joleen attended banquets with her family in the mid-'80s when her family dairy farmed. As a six- or seven-year-old then, she was impressed with the princesses. Two years ago, members of the Centre County Dairy Promotion committee called her, suggesting she run for dairy princess. Rachel Tanis also encouraged her. Now, Candace Wasson books events for Joleen while Sally Tanis serves as the chairperson of the committee.

"Rachel helps me a lot," Joleen says, adding that she hasn't had that much experience giving speeches. But with her family's encouragement and the Dairy Princess committee helping her, Joleen hopes to be able to accomplish as much as possible.

The Martin family moved to Centre County in 1984 from Danville. In 1986, her father bought a herd and rented a farm. In 1988, they bought the farm they currently live on and then sold the cows in 1993. Her father works as a nutritionist for Young's. Joleen milks at a neighbor's farm every Wednesday and when needed.

She said, "I work at Pappy's Place, too. They make ice cream



Centre County's Dairy Princess Joleen Martin joins her mother, Sara, on the deck of their Bellefonte farmhouse.

in the back, just vanilla and chocolate so far. It's the real thing! It just opened last year and serves sundaes and milkshakes. I work three or four nights a week."

One of Joleen's first events as Dairy Princess was to welcome the first baby of June, which is dairy month. Joleen helped welcome Maureen Laurice Ochs by giving her proud parents a basket of baby gifts and dairy products. Joleen also helped two days with Special Olympics at Penn State.

Five Dairy Maids and three

Dairy Misses join Joleen this year with her promotions. They are: Dairy Maids Latrisha Wasson, Christyn Rossman, Lori Connelly, Emily Cloninger, Laura Musser, and Dairy Misses Keri Connelly, Nicole Peterson, and Amanda Gates.

Anyone wishing to schedule Joleen should call (814) 237-2339.

Raised Beds

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — Are you still worried about using pressure treated wood for framing the raised bed for your vegetable, herb or flower garden? Here are some great options.

Stone frames will last forever, and you can easily rebuild the beds into any shape you want at any time.

Cement blocks or concrete is another option. If you lay the blocks in place so that the holes are facing up, you will be able to plant flowers and herbs in these pockets. You can also make a wooden form and pour permanent raised beds of concrete.

If wood is what you want, consider rot-resistant types such as cedar or redwood. Other types to consider are: hemlock, oak, black locust, red mulberry and catalpa.

Still another alternative is to use logs, lumber, and boards made of recycled plastic.

There are many advantages to using raised beds. For those of us who have trouble digging into the soil and rock to prepare a space, the raised bed is the answer. The placement of the top soil and amendments in the raised bed is just about the extent of the "work" that is needed.



Welcoming the first baby in June, Joleen presents a basket of baby gifts and dairy products to (left) Dr. Adrienne Ochs and Dr. Benedict Ochs of State College.

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