



The Lieb family includes, from left, Ralph, Mary Beth, Bob, Ben, "Flash," Marty, Marie, and Aaron at their Barr Ridge Farm in the Nicktown area of Cambria County. Barr Ridge, a producer of milk for Sani-Dairy in Johnstown, is a Pennsylvania Dairy of Distinction.

## On The Farm With Cambria County's Dairy Princess

**LORETTA GOLDEN**  
Cambria Co. Correspondent  
**NICKTOWN** (Cambria Co.) — Seventeen-year-old Marie Lieb, daughter of Ralph and Mary Beth Lieb of the Nicktown area of Cambria County, has been serving as the county's Dairy Princess. She was chosen at the annual spring meeting of the Cambria County Farm Bureau.

Ralph and Mary Beth are the owners and operators of "Barr Ridge Farm," a 250-acre dairy operation. Currently the Lieb family is milking 65 Holsteins and has 100 replacement calves. Milk produced is shipped to Sani-Dairy in Johnstown. Primary crops grown are alfalfa, corn, and soybeans.

Ralph is the fifth generation of his family to farm "Barr Ridge."

Mary Beth takes an active part in farm operations and helps with most of the morning milking. She is also the chairperson for the Cambria County Dairy promotions.

In addition to Marie, the family includes Bob, age 18; Marty, age 15; Aaron, age 14; and Ben who is 12. Bob will be attending Delaware Valley College this year to study dairy and animal sciences. Both Marie and Marty are students at Bishop Carroll High School in Ebensburg. Aaron and Ben attend Northern Cambria Catholic School.

Marie is quick to point out that "Barr Ridge" is a completely family-run operation. Everyone, including grandparents, Herman and Rose Marie Lieb, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in June, help out whenever they are needed whether it be with the milking, feeding, field work, or other chores. During the busy hay-making season, uncles and cousins also provide much-needed assistance.

The Dairy Princess Program, along with school work and other extracurricular activities, keep

Marie quite busy. This is her senior year at Bishop Carroll High School. At BC, she is a member of the marching and concert bands. This year, she has the added distinction of being the "drum major" for the marching band. She also participates in the Drama Club, Pro-Life Club, the Spanish Honor Society, and the Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Sciences. Upon graduation in June, Marie plans to enter college to study business management.

Outside of school, Marie is very active in the local 4-H program where she is president of the 4-H Dairy Club. She is also a member of the "Stitch and Snicker," a 4-H

sewing club. When asked about the unusual name for the sewing club she explained that when it was formed a number of years ago, the girls were quite young and "giggly," hence the word "snicker"! Her sewing entry of a long skirt with coordinating blouse earned her honors in regional competition with the right to participate in state competition.

Prior to becoming Cambria County's Dairy Princess, Marie served as a Penn State 4-H "Ambassador" for the past five years. She is able to draw on this previous experience for her current promotion of the dairy industry.

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Marie enjoys a quiet moment with Flash.

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