

Kids Korner

Li'l Miss Holds Job In Berks County

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
FLEETWOOD (Berks Co.) —
Maggie Heller bubbles with energy and enthusiasm. Recently she was selected as the Berks County Li'l Miss Dairy Princess.

In her role as the Li'l Miss, Maggie accompanies Berks County Dairy Princess Jen Davis to schools, malls, and meetings to encourage people to use real dairy products.

Usually the girl who is selected as a Li'l Miss is from a dairy farm. But Maggie doesn't live on the farm.

"My daddy drives a Clover Farm Truck. He gets milk and takes it to the stores," Maggie said.

Maggie lives with her parents, Sandra and Keith, in Fleetwood. She has two brothers, Patrick, 6, and Aaron, 8.

Patrick is a special brother because he is Maggie's twin. Together, the twins have lots of fun, although sometimes, they like to do things differently.

Maggie doesn't seem to ever be quiet and still. She said, "I like to swim, eat pizza, sing, pretend to be a ballerina, dance a lot, jump rope a lot, and do crafts."

She added, "I like school a lot, especially math and English. I do everything (lessons) ahead."

Without pausing, Maggie added, "I also like to kiss and hug, dance, and ride bike — our whole family rides bike."

Recently, Maggie dramatically related how she was selected from six contestants to assist the Berks County Dairy Princess in dairy promotion. The 6-year-old said that after the Li'l Miss contestants were introduced to the audience at the dairy princess pageant, she went off stage and sat with her family.

"Then the judges came back. Someone gave an envelope and when she opened it, she said, 'Maggie Heller.'

"That was me! I couldn't believe it. I wanted someone else to win," Maggie said as she described the moment.

"I got a banner, a crown, and four prizes," Maggie said.

The prizes were a book, chalk, a pewter plate, and a bracelet and necklace set.

For promotions, Maggie wears her crown and banner. At meetings, Maggie often recites a poem that her mother made up. It goes like this:

Your Holstein gives the milk,

Hi Ho the dairy-O.

Milk goes into your tank,

Hi Ho the dairy-O.

The driver takes the milk,

Hi Ho the dairy-O.

The truck goes to the dairy,

Hi Ho the dairy-O.

My daddy drives a truck,

Hi Ho the dairy-O.

He takes the milk to the store,

Hi Ho the dairy-O.

The mommies buy the milk.

Hi Ho the dairy-O.

The kids drink the milk,

Hi Ho the dairy-O.

They get strong bones and teeth,

Hi Ho the dairy-O.

They get strong bones and teeth.

When Maggie does milk promotions, she doesn't always need to speak. Sometimes she rides on trucks in parades and waves to the crowd. At the Reading Phillies baseball game, Maggie handed out ice cream coupons to the crowd.

Maggie and her twin brother, Patrick, and brother Aaron drink lots of milk and look for the real seal on dairy products.

Since becoming the Li'l Miss, Maggie has visited the farm a few times to see how a real farm operates.

"I'd like to grow up to be a real dairy princess and a farmer," she said.

Her brother Aaron, 8, is thinking about becoming a dairy ambassador.



While her daddy drives a milk truck, Maggie poses with her mom Sandra and brother Aaron, 8, and twin Patrick, 6.



Berks County Li'l Miss Dairy Princess Maggie Heller likes to dance with her twin brother Patrick.



The Heller siblings spent many hours playing soccer in their back yard.

Smart Stuff

WITH TWIG WATKINS '92

How do moths escape a bat attack?

They play dead.

First, a few things about bats. These nighttime hunters find their way through the dark by sending out high-pitched vibrations. Bats can tell how far they are from something — like a wall or tasty moth — because the vibrations hit the object and bounce back so the bats can hear it. Scientists call this echolocation (say eck-o-lo-CAY-shun).

Moths can try to stay one step ahead of the bats with the help of some special hearing. Some kinds of moths have eardrums, usually behind each hind wing, with nerve cells tuned to the same sound sent out by a hungry bat.

When moths hear the supersonic squeaks, they head for safety. The stalked moths begin to fly in a zigzag pattern, eventually folding their wings and dropping to the ground. Our scientist friends at Ohio State say you can watch moths put on their possum act — the sound of jingling car keys emits a high-pitched frequency similar to the sound of bats using echolocation. While you can't hear the sound, moths (like ones flitting near a porch light) will think bats are looking for dinner and "play dead."

Scientifically yours,

Twig

