



On the Reinholds 91-acre farm, Thomas Smith is king, his wife Dale is queen, Elizabeth is the Lancaster County dairy princess, and sons Brian and

Andy complete the royal court.

King And Queen Farm Finally Has A Real Princess

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REINHOLDS (Lancaster Co.)
— King and Queen Farm finally has a real princess living on it. At the Reinholds 91-acre farm, Thomas Smith is king and his wife Dale is queen. Their 19-year-old daughter was recently crowned the Lancaster County dairy princess—a dream come true for her father who always wanted her to fill the role of dairy princess.

Two brothers, Andrew and Brian, are just as thrilled as their father to have their sister selected as dairy princess. An older sister, Mary, is married to Andy Sims. Although Elizabeth shared her father's dream of becoming a dairy princess, she postponed the event longer than most contestants "until it seemed like the right time." A time when she could be most effective to the dairy industry.

Poised to begin her second year

of college at the Penn State Berks Campus, Elizabeth plans to use the pointers she receives as a communication major to represent the dairy industry.

Until 1988, the Smiths farmed in Allentown, New Jersey. It was difficult to move from the farm that had been in the family for three generations, but the suburban sprawl brought a new breed of neighbors.

"One neighboring family washed the outside of their house every Sunday because they didn't like flies that they said came from living near a farm," Elizabeth said.

Although the soils were about the same for growing effectiveness in the two states, one major difference surprised Smith.

He said, "In New Jersey I could park a wagon and expect it to stay on the same spot. But here, after several wagon escapes, I learned to get used to putting a rock in back of the wagon wheel."

When they moved, the Smiths were also surprised to be greeted by a bunch of neighbors who helped them move in. The machinery had been steadily moved before the actual moving day. On moving day, cows were brought in by truck one day and the heifers the next.

"We were surprised at how well and how quickly the herd adjusted," Smith said.

The family has a 100-head herd with 55 milking cows, which are fairly evenly divided between Holsteins and Brown Swiss breeds.

When Elizabeth was six years old, her parents presented her with a birthday present—a Holstein cow. She was thrilled. Later, her parents gave her a Brown Swiss.

"It's my favorite breed. I love them to death," she said of the 10 head she now owns.

Elizabeth considers the color variations intriguing. "It's always a surprise to see what the new calf looks like. A dark brown cow may have white offspring."

The calves usually start off as

pink or peach when born and become darker. She said that Brown Swiss can appear dark haired until clipped, which reveals light-colored hair underneath.

Each cow's distinctive facial features enables her to easily differentiate who's who among the herd. "But all of them have big beautiful eyes," Elizabeth said.

"Brown Swiss normally go past their due date, but give a grand entrance with no birthing problems even if a bigger than a normal one. When they are first born, the calves resist drinking from a bottle but soon relent and will playfully chase after the person who feeds them," she said.

Sharing the work load is a way of life for the Smith family. Elizabeth considers her parents excellent and credits them for instilling high values within her.

Elizabeth arises at 5:45 a.m. daily to feed the calves and help her dad finish milking the cows. After milking, Brian and she take care of teat dipping before letting the cows out to pasture.

On the Smith farm, the cows are put out to pasture every day of the year to exercise. A stream runs through the pasture that is divided into two padlocks. Even during the blizzard that coated the county two years ago, the cows were able to go outside because of the way the wind had blown the snow.

"Having the cows go outside, gets them off the concrete, heat detection is easier, and it gives me time to clean the barn," Elizabeth's dad said.

After breakfast prepared by her mother, Elizabeth vacuums while her dad cleans the barn. Depending on the duties of the day, Eli-

zabeth's responsibilities vary. She helps bale hay and straw. Usually square bales are made, but this year the Smiths were experimenting with something different. They had a neighbor use his round baler. Another new experiment this season is using no-till planting. Time was the major factor in making this decision because of the fields being too wet in early spring.

In addition to crop farming 91 acres on the farm, another 40 acres two miles away are also farmed by the Smiths.

"Most of the land is croppable and none is wasted in woodland," Tom said.

In the afternoon, Elizabeth often works with her show animals. At 2:30 p.m., she feeds the calves and puts in new bedding.

Sometimes, Elizabeth's mother finishes the evening chores because Elizabeth works at a supermarket from 5 p.m.-9 p.m. several times a week.

Since the Smiths moved to the Reinholds' farm, new heifer facilities were built and comfort stalls added. An open-front calf barn has sides that can be moved down during cold months. Eight calf pens, which can easily be cleaned out with a tractor and divided into half if more space is needed, have been erected near the open-front barn.

One great advantage of moving to Lancaster County, Smith said, was the many agricultural services available in the area.

Elizabeth has first-hand experience when she talks about the plight of farmers. She said, "Farmers are being pushed to the side. It's impossible to survive because people can't grasp the effects of

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Elizabeth is well-qualified to represent the dairy industry. Milk has always been her drink by choice. She is intent on helping women realize the severity of osteoporosis that results from not including enough dairy products in their diets during their growing and young adult years.

HOMESTEAD NOTES