

Kids Korner

At Home With Lebanon County Li'l Miss

LOU ANN GOOD

Lancaster Farming Staff

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) —

"Would you like a sticker? How about an eraser?" asks Royell Bashore as she presses a cow eraser and a "I love milk" sticker into the visitor's hand.

The five-year-old chatters on about her duties as Lebanon County's Li'l Miss, about Rocky her dog, and her new baby brother Ry Lynn, who is only six weeks old.

Royell is the daughter of Sherry and Bob Bashore, who live on a Jonestown farm.

At one time the Bashores owned their own farm, but now both mom and dad work on different farm.

"Same stuff, just less headache," Bob said cheerily. "We're happier now that we're working for someone else."

Bob had been renting his own farm since he was 18 years old. Now he works on his brother's dairy farm where he keeps some of his own cows. Sherry milks cows for neighboring Dave Williams' farm.

"And I like to help," said Royell who accompanies her mother to the barn. Royell helps put away the paper towels after the cows are prepped for milking.

Royell was selected as the county's Li'l Miss in June during the dairy princess pageant. She



Lebanon County Li'l Dairy Miss Royell Bashore with parents Bob and Sherry Bashore and brother Ry Lynn.



Six-week-old brother Ry Lynn is accustomed to Royell's constant chatter and jostling. She's already teaching him all about cows.



Although she is Lebanon County Li'l Dairy Miss, Royell likes to do the typical childhood things such as play with the piglets born on the farm.

appeared on stage and read a story to the audience. The story was from a book that she and her mom composed by cutting pictures from magazines and compiling into the story, "How Milk Gets To You."

Royell also sang her "Milk Song."

At the dairy promotions where she accompanies County Dairy Princess Heidi Finnicle and County Dairy Maid Laura Blauch, Royell passes out stickers and erasers.

"But my favorite thing is making pudding," Royell said of the school promotions where children are taught to make pudding.

"Being a Li'l Miss is good experience for Royell," her mom said.

Sherry said, "Royell has a ball. I think kids pay more attention to the milk message of someone her age."

At one promotion her mother was helping out when she felt some birth pangs. Dad took his wife to the hospital, and 30 minutes later—before Royell got finished with the promotion—Ry Lynn was born.

Now Royell likes to sing and entertain her brother.

At home, Royell likes to play with Barbie dolls, farm with toy tractors, and play with the dog.

Her dad collects farm toys. He said, "I like them all—but I have a soft spot in my heart for IH's by far more than the others."

Already baby Ry Lynn has two IH toy tractors.

Sherry collects salt and pepper shakers and Indian dolls. She misses showing cows, but has pictures of champion cows framed on the kitchen wall.

Royell is an unusual name. She said she was named after her Australian grandparents Roy and Elva. The Australian grandparents are the family Sherry stayed with when she participated in the FFA Work Experience Abroad while in



Royell likes when her daddy plays tractors with her. Her dad has a collection of antique farm toys and sometimes allows Royell to play with some of them.



Royell feeds her calf Love.

high school. Since then, the families keep in close touch.

"Farming is quite different in Australia," Sherry said. "Cows are

grazed and only a house and a milking parlor are built on the land. There are no barns or free
(Turn to Page B11)