

# Champion Fitter On National Television

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When 16-year-old Holly Moyer won champion fitter at Schuylkill Fair Dairy Show last year, she never expected to be featured on a national television station Nickelodeon.

To be named champion fitter was enough of a thrill for Holly, but to receive a phone call about a week later asking her to travel to Universal Studios in Florida to be taped for an upcoming television show was shocking.

"I thought there had to be a mistake," Holly said.

According to accounts, Holly was "discovered" by television producers via the Internet. A listing of the Schuylkill Fair results had been posted on the Internet for 4-H'ers to check.

A person from Nickelodeon was searching the Internet to find teenagers who had unusual hobbies. Fitting a cow was a new concept to the television host. It turned out to be an unheard of hobby to the four celebrity panelists who were to guess Holly's hobby by digesting the clues revealed.

Out of a pool of thousands of kids, 80 including Holly were selected to appear on the show.

The show is similar to the long-running Jeopardy! in which letters are flipped as contestants guess correctly. In this case, panelists were to guess the phrase: "Clipped most cow hair to win contest."

Panelists figured out the words "cow," "win," and "contest," and were given a free word: "to."

The panelists were allowed to ask only yes or no questions. At the end of round three, panelists had a chance to guess her hobby. Because panelists could not determine her hobby, Holly won the grand prize—a trip for four to the island Barbados—and several other gifts.

Holly and her dad had traveled to Universal Studios together, while her mom and siblings remained behind to do the milking chores. Trip expenses were paid by the studio, which also rented a hotel so that all contestants could stay in the same place.

"It was really weird to see all the things kids did," Holly said. "One had rats that played basketball. Another had a dog that read commands such as 'lay down,' and 'bark' in English and Spanish.

"And I saw my first kangaroo," Holly said of the event.

Holly was surprised that so many people were intrigued with the cow that she was clipping. "Many contestants said they had never seen a cow before," Holly said.

Holly described the taping: "I felt nervous and stiff, but I kept smiling."

Although she had been asked to bring her own cow to clip during the taping, Holly refused. "The trip would be too hard on her," she explained. So the show provided a cow from a herd nearby the studio.

"The cow was accustomed to being showed and really cooperated well," Holly said.

She did not have the opportunity to preview the finished taping so she isn't sure if her nervousness showed.

Taping for the show was completed in August. The segment on Holly will air sometime between Sept. 15 and April.

"Cows are my best friends," Holly said. She has plenty of "friends" on the family farm. Called Peek-A-View Holsteins, the family milks 120 Holsteins, evenly divided between red and white and black and white.

"I prefer red and whites. They are neat to look at and are nicer to work with, although I like both," Holly said.

Holly owns 10 to 15 of the stock.

Her parents, Paul E. and Lucinda Moyer, own four farms encompassing 1,500 acres in partnership with her dad's three brothers.

"The farms are separate and we make our own money but work the land together," Holly said. Her grandfather had purchased the farm and added a stanchion barn and expanded it twice. The Moyers added a double 8 milking parlor.

Holly is the eldest of four children. She has a sister Rosie, 14; a brother Clayton, 8; and twin 7-year-old sisters, Winonna and Tabitha.

Holly attends Tulpenhocken High School, where she is a member of FFA. She also participates in show choir, chorus, band, and has acted in several school musicals and plays.

Holly is secretary of the 4-H Club, which has about 60 members. She is also the Berks County Dairy Ambassador and has participated in 4-H capitol, state, and national Congress.

Not surprisingly, Holly collects cow items.

"I'm also a big Tigger fan," she said of Disney's Winnie the Pooh series.

After high school, Holly plans to attend Penn State to study dairy animal science and dairy nutrition and return to work on the family farm.

In the meanwhile, Holly can again be seen clipping cows during this fair season. She shows at Kutztown, Schuylkill, 4-H Roundup, and the Southeast Championship Show. She hopes to do well enough to participate in states and All-American competition.

"And I'm trying to talk my parents into letting me show at the Pennsylvania Farm Show," Holly said.

All this traveling from show to show means more time away from the farm. So the answer needs to be balanced with the opportunity for the whole family to go on the grand-prize trip to Barbados.

"We will need to hire someone who knows the herd to do the milking," Holly said.

People often ask if Holly's brush with fame entices her to pursue a career in entertainment.

"No," she answers quickly. "I don't like to be in front of a camera."

Her favorite spot is with her best friends, the cows at Peek-A-View Holsteins.



Holly Moyer recently taped an upcoming television segment for Nickelodeon, which features her clipping a cow. Holly's brush with fame doesn't entice her to pursue a career in entertainment. Instead her favorite spot is with her family's 120 milking Holstein herd. Here Holly is shown with her calf Hocus Pocus.

Photo by Andy Andrews



The Paul and Lucinda Moyer family of Peek-A-View Holsteins gathers at their show stall area at the Kutztown Fairgrounds. From the left, in front, are Tabitha, Clayton, and Wynonna. In the second row are Rosie and Holly Moyer, and exchange student Yulliana Yassin, in back are Paul and Lucinda Moyer.