

Ayrshire Princess

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ors in both the junior and state Ayrshire breed shows. Because of her ribbon-presentations responsibilities at Louisville, Susan asked a friend to handle showing Ellie in the open classes. The heifer placed third in the junior show and second in national open class competition.

"I'm not sure why I was originally so drawn to Ayrshires, but I was," Susan reflects. "Because we

raise our calves, most of our cows are pretty tame by the time they come in the milking string.

"But Ayrshires can have an 'attitude' all their own," she adds of her favorite cattle, noting one particular cow in their herd that is tame and friendly one day, but can be difficult and standoffish the next.

Luckily for this young dairy-woman, her cows have given her

four heifers out of five births, helping to rapidly increase the size of her own growing herd of nine Ayrshires and six Holsteins.

With the most demanding part of her national princess responsibilities now fulfilled, Susan can focus on the Farm Show and on her extensive school and home activities. In addition to helping regularly with milking, Susan studies and selects many of the sires used in the family's herd. She hopes to take the A.I. training course sometime in the future, so

that she can do the breeding of the Fawn Valley cattle.

Susan is president of the Kenard-Dale FFA chapter and carries an extensive portfolio of projects, including dairy, market swine, market sheep, beef breeding and eggs, as well as ag and related business courses. She has also become a very proficient junior dairy judge, participating in both team and individual judging, and hopes to further hone her skills at the collegiate level. Potential colleges on her list for consideration

include Delaware Valley, Penn State, and Cornell.

Long-term goal for this progressive young woman is to find a niche in the genetics industry, possibly with one of the A.I. organizations in the areas of marketing, in breed classification, or membership.

Though Susan Richardson's abilities promise her many options and opportunities to grow in the dairy industry, one thing is almost certain: there will be a special place in her heart for the Ayrshire breed of cows.



Susan Richardson's Ayrshire, 3-year-old Wentworth-Farm Heidi-Ho, has won numerous junior show honors.

Meat Goat Home Study Course

BEDFORD (Bedford Co.) - Penn State Cooperative Extension in Bedford and Fulton counties will be holding a Meat Goat Home Study Course, beginning in January, 2000. The purpose of the course is to teach producers about meat goat production

The course is conducted through the mail with weekly lessons which begin on January 19. The lesson topics include basic production information, nutrition, health, reproduction, marketing, and financial issues. Each lesson has information about the topic and a worksheet

for producers to complete and mail back to the Extension Office for comments. Producers can also submit any question which they would like answered.

Melanie Barkley, Bedford County extension agent, said "The course is a great way for producers to learn new information without having to rearrange their schedule to accommodate a

meeting." Producers can study the lessons at their leisure in their own home.

For more information you can contact the Penn State Cooperative Extension Office in Bedford County at (814) 623-4800 or in Fulton County at (717) 485-4111. Cost for the course is \$15.



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