

Pennsylvania Alternate Dairy Princess Fell For Program At A Young Age

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AIRVILLE (York Co.) — Rebecca Kilgore of Airville is living proof that the "Little Dairy Miss" program generates future stars in the dairy princess program.

17-year-old Kilgore was the York County Little Dairy Miss in 1991-92 with then-dairy princess Penny Jordan Snyder.

"I always looked up to her and thought she did such a good job," said Kilgore. So, when the committee approached her about running for princess last May, she decided to follow in Snyder's footsteps.

A year later Kilgore is not only the York County Dairy Princess, but also Pennsylvania Alternate Dairy Princess.

"I never expected to do so well at the state pageant," said Kilgore. "I kept beating myself up during the competition, thinking I could have done everything better."

At the end of the pageant, Kilgore was really pleased with the job she did. "There were a lot of excellent girls there," said Kilgore. "It was really neat to hear my mom screamed when they called my name."

Kilgore is the daughter of Doug and Pam Kilgore. Doug farms with his parents Gene and Doris Kilgore on a 120-cow dairy farm. Kilgore has two siblings, 15-year-old Raechael and 6-year-old Christopher.

Kilgore's mom Pam has been active in the dairy promotion

committee over the years, serving as York County coordinator for four years. Now Pam stays busy helping Rebecca with both her county and state activities.

"People keep telling me that I have no idea how proud my parents are of me," said Kilgore. "They don't get mad at me when I miss a bunch of school, and they even drove me to dairy princess activities when I was too sick to drive myself."

Kilgore has been all over the state with her dairy princess activities. But some of her favorite happened right in York County during the 250 anniversary of York County.

"I got to help with Manchester Old Time Days," said Kilgore. "I had a milk mustache picture taken with Secretary Sam Hayes and the county commissioners for the commemorative booklet."

Kilgore spent the day taking milk mustache photos for children attending Old Time Days, which was held in August.

She also got to meet Miss York County Vanessa Jordan when she went to Clearfield Elementary School. The school was participating in a cafeteria decorating contest.

"I gave them cow coloring pictures to hang up and handed out milk carton erasers," said Kilgore. "Their theme for the cafeteria was 'Mooving into the Millennium with milk.'"

On the state level, Kilgore has attended several meetings and spent a week at the infamous Farm Show. "I was the only one



Kilgore shows off her "Yield to the princess" license plate cover on her car. She has spent a lot of time in that car traveling from promotion to promotion.

out of the three state dairy princesses who didn't get sick."

She also helped the local Dairy Council hand out milk steamers at both the Harrisburg Marathon and the Philadelphia Marathon Health Expo.

"I really enjoyed going to Philadelphia for the marathon," said Kilgore. "Now I actually know the difference between a cappuccino, latte, and espresso. And I can make them."

Kilgore got to meet people from all around the country and throughout the world during the marathons. "A lot of people didn't even know what a dairy princess was," she said.

Kilgore plans to visit local elementary schools during the spring. The two York County Alternate Dairy Princesses, Michelle Walker of East Berlin and Holly Rankin of Red Lion, help Kilgore to meet the state incentive requirements and will be visiting local schools, too.

"It's really nice to have two county alternates who can help out when I am busy doing state activities," Kilgore said. "One day there were even three promotions in the county, and we were scattered all over."

After graduating from high school, Kilgore will attend the Rose Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Hoate, Indiana. She wants to be a chemical engineer.

"Chemistry has always been my favorite subject," said Kilgore. "The engineering part comes in because I don't want to teach — I want to make things."

Kilgore plans to work in veterinarian pharmaceuticals. "Although I won't be directly



Kilgore's little brother Christopher is pretty proud of his big sister and her crown. He accompanies her at some of the promotions.



Kilgore stands with one of her favorite 4-H projects, a Holstein heifer named Rapzbery.



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working in agriculture, I will be helping develop products that farmers can use," she said.

Although being dairy princess may not help Kilgore in the chemical engineering industry, she does feel that she has tremendously benefited from the program.

"The people I met and the things I've done have given me a broader sense of what's going on in the world and in the dairy industry," Kilgore said.

"I've gotten more involved in

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