

## Gable Named Dairy Woman Of The Year



**Berneta is one of only a few women who own and manage their own dairy operation.**

**LINDA WILLIAMS**  
*Bedford Co. Correspondent*  
NEW ENTERPRISE (Bedford Co.) — "I just can't imagine they picked an ordinary person like me for the World Dairy Expo "Dairy Woman of the Year" award."

But it's easy to see why Berneta (Snider) Gable is such a worthy candidate for the award as she stands in her well-kept barn surrounded by an outstanding herd of Guernseys, sprinkled with a few Holsteins and Jerseys.

Although she will not receive the actual award until October, Berneta has been informed that she is indeed the winner.

"I don't know how they picked me," Berneta said. "I have some very good friends who nominated me. They didn't even tell me; they just wrote letters and followed all the proper procedures and the next thing I knew, I was notified that I had won."

"It is indeed an honor. Already I can feel the effects," she said. "I have been invited to go on an agricultural trip to China this fall. I don't know if I can make it, but I'm sure going to try."

Berneta was born with farming running through her veins. The Snider farm, which she now owns, was homesteaded by her family in 1892, making her a fifth generation farming Snider. Her uncle Obie Snider won the World Expo Man's title a few years ago.

Often referred to as "Snider's Golden Guernsey Homestead Farm," Berneta and her two brothers and two sisters were active in 4-H from the time they could lead a cow by the halter.

By the time she was college age, Berneta decided to pursue a teaching career and studied health and physical education.

It was a career that went no further than her degree, and she returned to New Enterprise to pursue her true love of farming on the family farm.

Berneta and her husband, Brad, a surveyor with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, have raised two children, Aaron and Kendy. Aaron is now working on the farm with his mom. Kendy, a sophomore at Northern Bedford County High School, has always been involved in 4-H and dairy cows.

Aaron and Kendy, as well as a host of nieces and nephews who were all furnished cows by Berneta, have won numerous outstanding awards

at both local fairs and the Pennsylvania State Farm Show.

Snider/Gable cows have brought home championship Guernsey Pennsylvania State Farm Show awards nine times since 1990. The proudest moment, however, was when Aaron and his cow, "Georgie," took home the Grand Champion award at the World Expo in Madison, Wisconsin.

"I think nothing will ever mean quite as much to Aaron again," said Berneta. Berneta had to have two knee replacements recently brought about from years of jumping off a farm tractor or wagon.

Helping to keep it a first class farm is "Tweet," Berneta's brother, who handles most

of the field work on the 300 acres they farm raising all the feed for their 140 milk cows and 100 head of youngstock.

The totally registered herd is artificially bred. However, they do raise five or six bulls a year to sell and keep one for clean-up purposes.

A nephew also helps out on the farm. "And, I couldn't do it without my husband Brad," Berneta said. "He is wonderful. When he is not working away, he is always here to help."

The animals are what makes Berneta fond of farming. She scratches an ear, rubs a nose, or gives a gentle back-rub as she passes her prize winning animals.

"You have to take care of them," she said. "It's the only way they will produce."

Keeping up with the numerous changes in farming has been a constant challenge. "You have to learn the market. At one time, Guernsey milk was in great demand because of the richness. That's not really the case anymore."

Berneta also realizes the value of a computer on the farm and is learning in the precious spare time that she has mostly being taught by daughter, Kendy.

She realizes most farmers today are poor marketers and is alarmed at the misconceptions many get about farming.

"Few realize the hard work that goes into producing the nation's food," she said.

Meanwhile, she is proud to be a farmer and, although she can't understand why she was chosen, Berneta will be proud to accept her award.

## Dairy Princess Inspired To Learn More About Dairy



**Lori Connelly**  
*Pennsylvania Dairy Princess*  
Dairy Month Special Columnist

Never have I learned so much and, at the same time, felt I've had so much to learn.

All nineteen years of my life I have spent among dairy cattle and the activities that come along with them. Eight months ago, I felt I knew what made this industry tick and what it took for a single glass of milk to find its way to my breakfast table.

But, on September 26, I was thrown into a world where I was forced to acknowledge the deficiency of my experience and knowledge. I was given the most humbling of opportunities.

Since my crowning, I have encountered people from nearly all facets of our industry. Each person I've met has left something to take with me after I pass down my crown. A piece of information, an idea, and, most often, a feeling of admiration is left imprinted in my mind as those I encounter share with me something from their own personal niche in the

industry. This admiration is derived from the realization that their expertise is not just gained, but earned through years of experience.

Perhaps this realization is true of all industries and all walks of life. Maybe sometimes we each need to realize that no matter how old we are or how long we have been doing what we do, we will never know as much as we thought we did. That's the beauty of knowledge. It never ends. We can never know too much, and we can never run out of things to learn.

It's been said that the greatest leaders never rest on their accomplishments. Why should our industry rest on its accomplishments? There is so much that we do not know. Twenty years ago, who would have thought that the world's largest cosmetics companies would be demanding our products incorporate into their own? Or that milk could contribute to the fight of cancer?

Of all of the lessons and facts I've learned this year, the most important thing I've learned has been something that I've always known. Our industry is overflowing with bright, inspirational people who love what they do and love sharing it with others.

Thank you to everyone who has given me something to look back on when this year is over. You have each helped make my year rich. But, most importantly, thank you for giving me the desire to learn.

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