

# 'Incredible' Opportunities Linked To Agricultural Pursuits

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Lancaster Farming Staff

**CENTRE HALL (Centre Co.)**  
— For Emily, it's hard to differentiate among her many ag-related interests. They all seem to intertwine somehow with 4-H.

"Four-H is an incredible learning experience to build upon, and it teaches responsibility," she said of her involvement in several 4-H clubs.

"Incredible" is a word that 18-year-old Emily uses often while conversing about 4-H, the dairy princess program, and the dairy industry.

The freshman Penn Stater developed an interest in the dairy industry as a preschooler accompanying her dad, Robert Cloninger, a large animal veterinarian, to farms. She soon joined 4-H and began raising animals for projects. Now, she owns 10 of the 28 Holsteins on the family's 10-acre Reeber Farm.

Emily participated in Dairy Bowl at the state and national level. When she was in sixth grade, Emily became a dairy maid, a position she held for several years.

"That was my first involvement with dairy promotion,"

Emily said.

She enjoyed it so much that competing for the Centre County and later the state dairy princess seemed a natural progression.

In September, Emily was selected second alternate for state promotions.

The demands of attending promotional events throughout the state has complicated her college studies in animal science and business management at Penn State's main campus, but all her past experience in responsibility and scheduling has enabled her to maintain full-time classes and promotions.

"When I miss class, my friends take notes so I can read along," Emily said of keeping up with class studies.

"It's an incredible opportunity and one that I enjoy."

At home, Emily enjoys spending time with her parents, Robert and Ellen, and sisters, Elizabeth, 11, and Rebecca, 10; and a brother Ben, 15.

"I've always been around cows. The dairy industry is something I love and respect so much. I want to give back what it's given me," Emily said.



She may be the state alternate dairy princess, but Emily Cloninger has multiple agriculture-related interests. She and her sisters, Elizabeth and Rebecca, gather at the pen where Emily housed her pigs during Farm Show.

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