

## Half-Way Point!

### Updates from Kaitlyn Hinds, 2011 Ohio Beef Queen



It is hard to believe that July was my 'mid-way' mark for my reign as Ohio Beef Queen. The first half, like time so often does, went very fast, but continues to be a positive and memorable experience. I'm continuing to fill my schedule with as many events as my school schedule will allow.

June fourth I traveled to Columbus for the 2011 OCA BEST Annual Awards Banquet. The sponsorship and donation of not only awards, but also time honored the BEST participants. Though a storm began raging halfway through, the sun came out before the end of the presentations, and the closing came with sunshine. The twenty-fifth of June took my mother and I to Kenton, Ohio for the Ohio CattleWomen's Outing. I began in the morning by assisting in the first ever Summer County Beef Queens Training Seminar. While the seminar was held in an informal setting, the Ohio Beef Queen Co-coordinators presented current information to the participants, and they made suggestions for summer queen activities. Following the meeting, Andy Johnson with the Ohio Cattlemen's Association showed the proper way to conduct a cooking demonstration for the participants. The queens assisted Andy to grill up some hamburgers and New York strip steaks. After a taste sample, everyone returned inside for the lunch served by the Plaza Inn. The Ohio CattleWomen's meeting followed lunch, and then members were free to do some shopping around the Kenton area.

July began my county fair season, where I am traveling around the state to attend beef shows at county fairs. To date I have visited Clinton, Crawford, Carroll, Fayette, Clark, Knox, Seneca, Auglaize, Miami, and Huron counties. Although school and my fall classes beginning have slowed my travels some, I plan to continue attending fairs throughout the months of September and October. Each show has held experiences of its own, but the same common theme of pride and excitement can be felt at any of these fairs. For more information on my days at the above fairs, as well as my other events, please visit my travel blog at <http://ohiobeefqueen.wordpress.com/>.

The 2011 Ohio State Fair was easily one of the most exhilarating experiences of my entire reign. Twelve full days in Columbus presented the opportunities to attend all of the beef shows, both junior and open classes, participate in the Beef Cook-Off, take multiple trips to the CattleWomen's store and the Steak Tent, as well as experience my first ever Sale of Champions. Additionally I had assistance at ringside for the shows from county queens and state breed queens. These memorable two weeks of my reign were very busy, but also very much an honor to serve .

Finally, my latest stop was in Gallia County for the Ohio Cattlemen's Association's Summer Round-Up. The day began with a seminar in the morning and was followed by a very impressive farm tour of Champion Hill Farms. After several stops around the operation, participants had a lunch of smoked brisket. The day concluded with several seminars and an auction with the

proceeds going to benefit the PAC fund. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Political Action Committee assists at the national level in legislative issues, which come to further affect our state's agricultural community. The proceeds of the auction will help keep our industry strong.

As my personal county fair season sets in, I continue to be proud of and represent the position to the best of my ability. As my travels continue, hopefully I will keep on meeting new faces around the state. I am very open to attending as many events as my schedule allows. I can be reached by E-mail at [k2hinds@gmail.com](mailto:k2hinds@gmail.com).