Students show their dairy best

By Amy Snow
Lantern staff writer

Elsie the Cow might not show up for the Buckeye Royal competition, but some of her colleagues will be proudly strutting their stuff with the help of some OSU students.

The Buckeye Dairy Club is sponsoring the annual Buckeye Royal, a contest where students participate in a showing competition of dairy cattle.

"The purpose of the Royal is to get more people familiar with the dairy animals and Agriculture campus," said Julie Lemmermen, chairperson of the Buckeye Royal.

The Buckeye Dairy Club works in conjunction with Animal Science 100, the domestic animals in the service of man.

Lemmermen, a junior majoring in dairy science from Tiffin, said the students in the class have a choice of either competing in the competition or writing a paper.

The Royal is open to OSU students, faculty and staff. There are two classes — one for people with experience in showing dairy cattle, and one for those who are not, she said.

The students who compete are assigned animals and have two weeks to train and prepare the cattle for show.

Christa Peters, a freshman in animal science from Urbana, said there are demonstrations twice a week for the students during the training period so they know what to do.

Peters said she is walking and washing her animal every day, getting it ready for the show. She has never shown dairy cattle before, but has shown steers.

"It's a little different, but you use the same concepts — like you walk dairy cattle slower, and you hold a steers head up when you show it," she said.

"I really like working with animals and I think it's interesting and fun. Besides I won't have to do a term paper if I show."

The students will be judged on how well the animal is cleaned and clipped. There are basic grooming techniques that should be followed, Lemmermen said.

Lemmermen estimates there will be about 45 people competing in the contest. The preliminary showing will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday in Plumb Hall, and the top five contestants will then compete at 1 p.m. The winners of the finals will receive trophies, she said.

Kelly Easterday, a freshman dairy science major from Rochester, Ind., is showing in the experienced class. She is not in the Animal Science 100 course, but has shown dairy cattle in the Fulton County Fair in Indiana and has won in the master, senior, junior and beginner divisions of the showmanship competition.

Easterday said the judges look for a person who is calm. The cattle knows when a person is nervous or upset and it shows in the performance of the cattle.

A good showman should know how to best present the animal, and should also be knowledgeable about the animal so he or she can answer any questions the judge might have, she said.