

Hello, my name is Rebekah Hardacre and I am the 2023 Ohio Fairs' Queen. I am also representing Clark County, the birthplace of 4-H and just recently ended my year of service as the 2022 Clark Co. Fair Queen. I am a 2021 graduate from Global Impact STEM academy in Springfield, and am currently attending the University of Findlay for animal science and pre-vet studies as a junior this upcoming semester. Along with my school studies and multiple part time jobs, I am also a Specialist in the Ohio Army National Guard and have been serving my country for almost 3 years. My plans are to be a large animal veterinarian in the Army. I have been involved in 4-H for 12 years and FFA for 4 years where I served as multiple different positions on the officer teams being president, vice president and recreationist for my 4-H club, and I was the 2021 executive chaplain officer for my FFA chapter. Being involved in the fair life, I have shown a multitude of animals such as dairy cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens, turkeys, and rabbits. I also was involved with miscellaneous projects such as baking, sewing, and poetry.

As the 2023 Ohio Fairs' Queen I have been able to visit all of the fairs that have started off this fair season with the plan being to visit as many county and independent fairs as I possibly can. I have been in attendance at multiple other events that have been held at different fairs throughout the year such as the Clark County cattle battle fundraiser, the Spring Beef Expo at The Ohio State Fair, I have been to the 4 different spring meetings for the OFMA board in April, different community parades, festivals, and fundraisers, several royalty get togethers and dances, and I have also been working with a few different schools doing meet and greets, zoom calls and informational interviews about agriculture, 4-H, fairs, and the different types of careers in agriculture and how it can benefit the students lives.

Growing up on a farm has been a great experience for myself learning hard work, determination, and to know that you have to step up every day to accomplish even the little tasks, as well as helping others to get more involved in agriculture and see the many sides to this amazing organization. My family has been a multigenerational dairy industry business and we have 2 family farms that have been awarded the bicentennial farm recognition. I recently have also started a small home dairy of my own and love continuing to grow the dairy industry, follow in the footsteps of my ancestors, and contribute to the agricultural community that I have grown up in and love so much. I also would like to say thank you for your continued efforts and working cooperatively together to ensure the strength and prosperity of the agricultural industry throughout the state of Ohio. I would love to get to talk with you more after the meeting and I am beyond grateful to be representing Ohio and Ohio agriculture as the 2023 Ohio Fairs' Queen. Thank you.