

The second time was a charm for 2014 Floyd County Fair Queen Ashley Wilson. After entering the contest at 16 and coming up short, she decided to give it another try before she heads off to college and it paid off.

Wilson took home the top honor as the Floyd County 4-H fair kicked off on July 14.

“It has been a great week,” Wilson said a few days after the contest. “I love talking to the little girls and having my picture taken with them. I love handing out the various awards. It’s just been a lot of fun.”

Wilson is the daughter to Betsy and Ted Wilson. She graduated from Floyd Central last month and plans to attend Murray State University this fall.

She plans to study to be a Vet-Tech, which she described as an equivalent to an RN who works with Veteranarians.

“I wanted to study to be a Vet Tech and I wanted to be at a small school, so that limited my options,” she said of her choice to attend MSU. “It was between Morehead and Murray and Murray won out because they start you immediately in your classes.”

Her desire to work with animals started at a young age.

“I wanted to be a full vet at first, but I heard there was a shortage of Vet techs, so I thought I would take that route and if I wanted to become a full vet, I would just need two more years.”

As for winning the pageant, Wilson admitted to be a little caught off guard. She felt like portions of it went well for her, but also knew the competition was tough.

“I was really surprised,” Wilson said. “I felt like the interview went well and I enjoyed talking to the judges. We had a good conversation, so I was really confident about that part of it.

“I was shocked to win though because all of the girls were so pretty.”

The contest started with business wear.

Next was casual.

That was followed by evening wear.

“I really liked seeing what the different girls chose as their dresses,” Wilson said.

Besides the crown, the most special thing about winning was the relationships she built throughout the process.

“All the girls were very nice and we got along well,” she said.

Wilson said outside of the friendships, she felt like there were so many benefits to entering the pageant.

She said the interview with the judges was good practices for future job interviews and the pageant as a whole builds confidence and really exposes you to different personalities.

The hardest part for Wilson through the whole process was the first time the group took the stage.

“The more you are out there, the more relaxed you get, but that first time, we were all very nervous,” Wilson said.

Wilson was a member of the Floyd Central cross country team and still runs when she can.

She also likes serving in the mission field at her church, Northside Christian Church.

“I want to Guatemala last spring break,” Wilson said. “The people are nice and humble and are very open to receiving help.”

Wilson said the group she went with took part in building three houses for people who didn't have homes.

She looks forward to taking more mission trips in the future.

For now, she will turn her attention to the Miss Indiana pageant.

Wilson said she is nervous, but knows that it will be fine once she gets there and gets going.