

Applejack

Overview

Applejack is a female Earth pony and one of the main characters of *My Little Pony Friendship is Magic*. She lives and works at Sweet Apple Acres with her grandmother Granny Smith, her older brother Big McIntosh, her younger sister Apple Bloom, and her dog Winona. She represents the element of honesty.



Development and Design

Applejack is one of the only two members of the main cast who were part of the original *My Little Pony* cast in the 1980s animated series, the other member being Spike. Lauren Faust, the show's developer, was inspired to create **Applejack** by her childhood toy G1 pony **Applejack**.^[1] Faust intended to use more characters from the first *My Little Pony* series, but Hasbro did not maintain the trademarks to nearly all of the original character names and most names had to be replaced.^{[2][3][4]} Faust used the character's G1 color scheme, abandoning the dark red color from the G3 toy line. Voice actress Ashleigh Ball has cited country singers Miley Cyrus, Dolly Parton and Reba McEntire as inspiration for **Applejack**'s voice and dialect.^{[5][6]} She shares some personality traits with the G1 pony named Starlight (not to be confused with Starlight Glimmer).

Name

Applejack is also the name of a strong alcoholic beverage produced from apples. In the episode *Bridle Gossip*, a poison joke causes **Applejack** to shrink. Spike calls her "Apple Teeny," pronounced the same as appletini, an apple-flavored alcoholic cocktail. **Applejack** is the first pony to have her name abbreviated in the show. In *Applebuck Season*, Twilight calls her "A.J.," a nickname that is used again by Spike in *Boast Busters*, Big McIntosh in *Winter Wrap Up*, Twilight Sparkle and Rainbow Dash in *The Last Roundup*, Pinkie Pie in *MMMystery on the Friendship Express*, and Coloratura in *The Mane Attraction*.

Skills

Strength

Applejack possesses incredible physical strength due to, as she explains in *Fall Weather Friends*, years of applebucking, the practice of harvesting apple trees by kicking them to knock the apples down. Some examples are in the following episodes:

- *Applebuck Season*: Even when she is sleep-deprived, **Applejack** clears all of the apples out of a tree in a single kick. In the episode *Over a Barrel*, the citizens of Appleloosa work in groups and kick multiple times to harvest apples from a single tree.
- *Fall Weather Friends*: In the bucking contest, **Applejack** uses one hind hoof and bucks the hammer so hard that it breaks and sends the bell flying.
- *The Mysterious Mare Do Well*: While dressed up, she stops a bus from falling with a single kick.
- *Leap of Faith*: When trying to "rescue" Granny Smith while the latter swims, **Applejack** knocks over a tall tree with a single kick.

Athleticism

Applejack possesses extraordinary athletic abilities. She and Rainbow Dash compete in the Iron Pony competition in *Fall Weather Friends*, where their athletic feats draw a sizable crowd. **Applejack** demonstrates her skills with a lasso in *Applebuck Season*, *Boast Busters*, *Look Before You Sleep*, *Bridle Gossip*, *Fall Weather Friends*, and *The Return of Harmony Part 2*. In *The Mysterious Mare Do Well*, **Applejack** refers to her left and right hind hooves as "Bucky McGillycuddy" and "Kicks McGee" respectively.

Cooking

Pinkie Pie describes **Applejack** as "one of the best bakers ever" in *Applebuck Season*. **Applejack** sells apple-based foods at a concession stand in *The Best Night Ever*. In an earlier episode, **Applejack** describes to Twilight how she will use the money from the concession stand to upgrade the barn roof, buy a new plow for Big McIntosh, and replace Granny Smith's hip. In *A Canterlot Wedding - Part 1*, Princess Celestia asks **Applejack** to prepare refreshments and the wedding cake for Princess Cadance and Shining Armor's royal wedding. She cheers up a grumpy Twilight with an apple fritter during the wedding preparations. In *Apple Family Reunion*, **Applejack** shows her skill at making apple fritters to her relatives. In the episode *Rainbow Falls*, she makes an abundance of apple brown bettys for the Ponyville air relay team.

Herding

Applejack stops a cow stampede in *Applebuck Season* with only the help of her dog, Winona. Twilight Sparkle seeks her help first when she is looking for a way to herd the parasprites out of Ponyville in *Swarm of the Century*. **Applejack** and her family also herd the Pinkie Pies together by Twilight's instructions in *Too Many Pinkie Pies*.

Playing musical instruments

Applejack demonstrates an affinity for playing musical instruments throughout the series. In *A Canterlot Wedding - Part 2*, she plays a fiddle during the picture montage in *Love is in Bloom*. In *Pinkie Apple Pie*, she plays a banjo during *Apples to the Core*. In a flashback in *The Mane Attraction*, she accompanies Coloratura on the acoustic guitar during a camp talent show.



