

Deb Greider wears Lancaster Co. dairy crown

BY SALLY BAIR
Staff Correspondent

LANCASTER — Seventeen-year-old Deb Greider was named the 1981 Lancaster County Dairy Princess in ceremonies held Saturday night at Landis Valley Resort Inn.

In her acceptance immediately following her crowning, she thanked her parents for their support and added, "I pledge to do my best job. I believe strongly in dairying and I will do my best for you."

A senior at Hempfield High School, Deb is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. Robert Greider, Columbia R2.

First Alternate in the contest was Robin Balmer, 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Balmer, 1551 Mentzer Road, Lancaster, Robin works full time on her family's dairy farm, and is a 1980 graduate of Lampeter Strasburg High School.

Second Alternate was Debra Hershberger, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hershberger, Quarryville, R4. A senior at Solanco High School, Debra was also chosen as Miss Congeniality, an honor selected by the contestants themselves.

Deb Greider won the judges' approval by a milk promotion radio spot in which she extolled the virtues of milk, saying, "Milk is a miracle. All you need is sun, a cow and good feed to produce milk by the bucketful. Milk has style and tummy appeal and should never be forgotten at any complete meal." She concluded by saying, "For a mooving experience, drink milk everyday."

In answer to a question posing the imaginary situation in which a friend was on a diet and gave up dairy products entirely, Deb responded, "Milk's too good to skip completely." After giving a run-down on what dairy products a dieter might enjoy, she added, "You need milk even if you are on a diet."

Deb is active in 4-H as a member of the Mountville Community 4-H Club, and Red Rose 4-H Baby Beef Club and the 4-H County Council. Her previous experience as royalty was serving as the Beef Club's senior queen in the 4-H queen contest. She is active in Hempfield Singers, was in Student Council and will serve as a member of the steering committee. Last year she was active in hockey, basketball and track.

The Greiders milk about 125 Holsteins on their dairy farm near Columbia.

Deb was crowned by Connie Balmer, 572 Milway Road, Lititz, who called her own experience, "rewarding and challenging." Connie thanked those who supported her throughout her reign, especially her parents for driving her to meetings and "milking without me."

Her final words were, "What you are is God's gift to you; what you become is your gift to God."

Connie began the evening's program with a milk toast to the dairy industry.

Other contestants included JoAnn Brenneman, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elvin K. Brenneman; Mount Joy R1; Reba Brubaker, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Brubaker, Mount Joy



Lancaster County's 1981 Dairy Princess is Alternates Robin Balmer, Lancaster, left, and Deb Greider, Columbia R2. She is shown Debra Hershberger, Quarryville R4, wearing her new crown, flanked by First

Princess contestants delivered cold, frosty glass pitchers of milk to each table prior to the banquet. The theme for the evening was "Down by the Old Mill Stream," with decorations under the direction of Kathryn Fry. A reception featuring milk punch and cheese snacks preceded the banquet. Linda Kreider was chairman of the reception committee.

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Chester County dairyman; and Richard Dennison, Pennsylvania Farmers Association.

Mr. and Mrs. Elvin K. Brenneman served as chairpersons for the program.

Deb will spend the next year promoting dairy products and will represent Lancaster County in the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess contest in September. She said, "I'm very excited; I consider it an honor and think it will be a really good experience."

Weather dampens Seven Valleys farm tour

BY LAURIE DOBROSKY

SEVEN VALLEYS — A cloudy overcast and often rainy day did not stop a number of York Countians from attending the Seven Valleys Farm Tour held here on Saturday.

"To bring farmers together with their urban neighbors," was the purpose of the tour according to Kay Taylor, chairman of the event. The tour was sponsored by the York Farmers Association and a number of ag businesses in the area.

The host farm for the event was that of Lester and Richard Luckenbaugh. The Luckenbaugh's

grow a number of crops including wheat, barley, mixed hay, alfalfa, corn and soybeans. The crops are marketed through Poorbaugh Grain in Lancaster.

Lester Luckenbaugh is one of the top crop growers in York County and is a seed corn salesman. He also serves as president of the York Extension Association, past-president of the Spring Grove Lions Club, and past-membership-chairman for the York Farmers' Association.

The Luckenbaugh's barn held various exhibits set up by different ag businesses and local craftsmen. There were food stands serving ice

cream and deep-pit roast beef and pork sandwiches, and a petting zoo for the children set up by York County 4-H.

Down home country musical entertainment was provided by State Representative A. Carville (Peck) Foster and his Friday Night Garage Pickers, with a little help on some numbers provided by State Senator Ralph Hess.

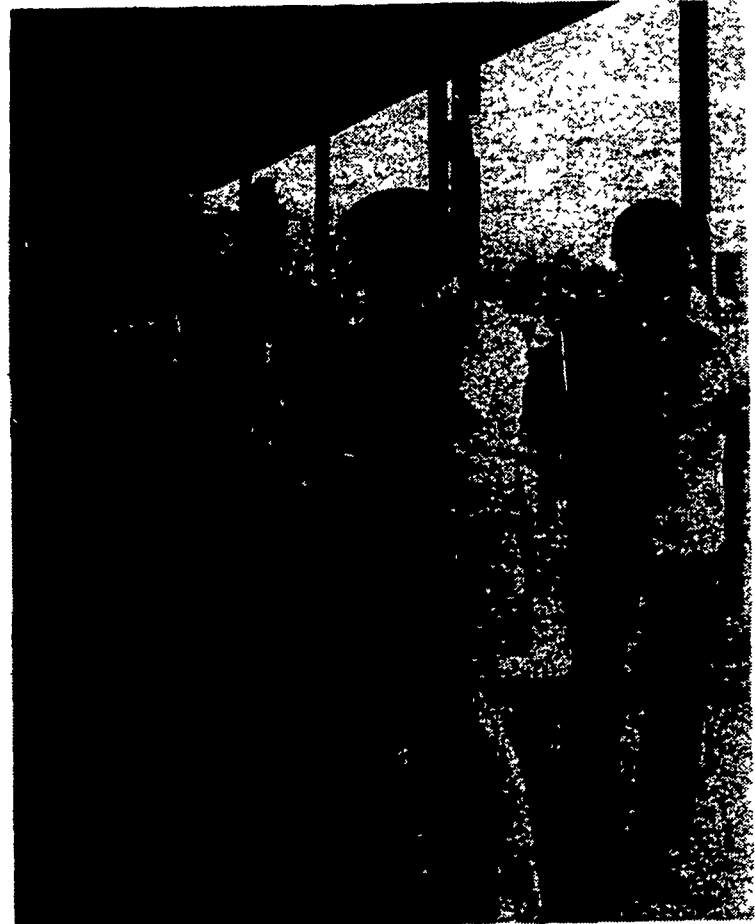
From the Luckenbaugh farm visitors hopped aboard straw-filled wagons pulled by tractors (donated by various local businesses) and were taken to the home of Michael and Donna Locrone. The Locrone family has established an orchard over the past five years. It will produce its first crop of apples and peaches this year.

Once the 3,000 trees they have begun producing, the Locrones said they hope to expand their orchard to include cherries, plums, nectarines, pears, and apricots. The Locrones will market their crops by the use of "pick your own" and a roadside market. Beehives are kept near the orchard for pollination purposes, and the extra honey is sold.

As the wagons circled the Locrone farm, Heather Staub from York County, the 1981 Pennsylvania Apple Queen presented a discussion on fruit and apple production, apple markets, tree prices and types of apples. She also spoke on apple tree care, noting "The Locrone's spray their trees every 3-5 days, and carefully prune and spread the branches on the trees so the apples are easier to pick."

The Locrones also have a chicken operation that produces 7,200 eggs daily. These are fertilized eggs that are gathered by hand 3 times a day from nest filled with sugar cane.

The Locrone's use sugar cane because "it can be chopped finer, is more absorbant, and the birds



Entertainment for the farm tour was provided by Representative A. Carville (Peck) Foster and his group the Friday Night Garage Pickers. Various ag businesses and craftsmen set up exhibits in the barn of Lester Luckenbaugh host for the farm tour.

don't pick at it like straw." The eggs gathered from their house are called "Hubbard-Mix heavy chickens" which are used for broilers, the eggs are sent to Longenecker's hatchery.

This farm family also operates a recycling center. The proceeds from the center go to help support OUCH a group formed to protest a proposed chemical dump in the area. They are recycled glass,

paper, steel and aluminum at the present time.

"The only thing we don't recycle is plastic," announced Mrs. Locrone. In the future they hope to include that too.

From the Locrone farm the wagons travelled to the farm of Nelson and Judy Brenneman. The Brennemens have primarily a dairy farm, which includes about

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Answering questions from visitors on apple production, is Pennsylvania Apple Queen Heather Staub.