

# From 1956

# until today

Tuesday night marks the silver anniversary of the PA Dairy Princess Program — an institution that has provided the dairy industry with a consumer education program as well as top-notch promotion.

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ

LANCASTER — When Cindy Neely, current Pennsylvania Dairy Princess, crowns her successor on Tuesday night, it will mark the silver anniversary of such an event — 25 years of tears, crowns, pageants, promotion and plan of hard work in Pennsylvania's dairy industry.

We thought you might like to take a walk with us through the years and see how the program has changed, improved, and blossomed, and how some of the girls have changed since their reign as princess.

When Susan Gail Coskery of Lehigh County was crowned Pa.'s first dairy princess representative in 1956, she was known as a "Milk Maid Queen" and the contest was initiated by the Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers. Milk Maids were chosen according to Pennsylvania milk marketing areas. Thus was the progression of coronations for twelve years.

Today Susan is Mrs. James Taylor of St. Clair, Michigan, mother of two. Susan reports participation in the National Dairy

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You should be able to name this outstanding young princess. She is Cindy Neely from Clarion-Venango counties, the 1980 state dairy princess. Cindy will turn her crown over to another lucky winner this Tuesday night.



Do you recognize the first Pennsylvania Dairy Princess? She is Susan Gail Coskery, now Mrs. James Taylor, looking as though she had just stepped from a Cinderella storybook. Susan was from Lehigh County and at the time was called a Milk Maid Queen.



Clockwise from upper left: Marcia Gnagey, 1973 Pa. Dairy Princess from Somerset County crowns 1974 Pa. Dairy Princess Debra Miller from Dauphin County; Carol Stephens, Fayette County was a little surprised when she learned she had become Pa.'s 1966 State Dairy Princess. To her left is 1965 princess, Linda Forba, Wyoming County; Carol Stephens as she appeared for her royal picture; Carol Crandall, right, of Erie County was crowned the 15th Pennsylvania Dairy Princess in 1971 at the first pageant, they held a luncheon for the contestants — the winner was Gail Coskery, third from left.