

25 years of princesses

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Princess Contest in Chicago as the highlight of her reign.

In 1960 Carol Ann Robinson, now Mrs. Beals, was named State Milk Maid Queen. Today Carol is a doctor living in Michigan.

The Milk Maid in 1965, Linda Forba, came from Wyoming County. Linda has found a career in nursing much like the 1973 princess, Marcia Gnagey. They both have combined their careers as nurses with travel and together have practically covered the globe. Linda has journeyed to Connecticut, California, Europe, South America, and Central America. Marcia's travels have included Egypt, England, Europe, Scandinavia and Hawaii. This summer she says she plans "to go to Kenya, Africa and take in a few photographic safaris as well as visit my sister who presently is doing research in Nairobi."

Carol Stephen, Fayette County, who wore the crown in 1966, now plans to attend the University of Michigan for a graduate degree in speech and language arts.

This brings us to 1967 — a year without a contest. But in 1968 the program was revamped and taken over by the Pennsylvania Holstein Association which changed representation from marketing areas to counties.

That year a young girl from Cumberland County, Ann Niesley, became the state's dairy princess. Today Ann is a third grade teacher.

In 1971 Erie County's dairy princess, Carol Crandall — now Mrs. Tony Georgelas — held the state title. But Carol proved that one year of royalty wasn't enough as evidenced by her activities today. She says, "Tony and I are supervising the building of a palace for a member of the Royal Family in Saudi Arabia and will remain in the Kingdom for another year."

In 1979, the Atlantic Dairy Association became the prime sponsor of the program and remains so today.

As you can see, the program has changed through the years as

much as the girls themselves. Past princesses have gone on to be everything from homemakers to teachers, doctors, therapists, artists and even a minister.

Though several counties can brag of two winners, only Washington County can say it has produced three state princesses. And then as now, their homes are a bit spread apart. Two addresses for these girls include Michigan and one is California.

Today's dairy princesses are between 16 and 21 years of age, single, and must be from a dairy farm background or own at least one dairy animal.

Cindy Neely, the current state dairy princess from Clarion-Venango counties, will turn her crown over to another lucky girl Tuesday night at the Penn Harris Motor Inn. This new 1981-82 princess will be a special girl, not only for her knowledge, looks and qualities, but also because she alone can say she is the silver princess of the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Program.

State milk production 'booming' says economist

UNIVERSITY PARK — Milk production in Pennsylvania has increased faster and in greater amounts than anywhere else in the Northeast, says Blair J. Smith, agricultural economist at Penn State.

Last year's milk production in Pennsylvania was 26 percent greater than consumption, Dr. Smith reports. This "boom" in milk output has occurred gradually. Twenty years ago, milk production in the Commonwealth was 12 percent less than consumption.

Dr. Smith says only Vermont has a greater milk surplus relative to consumer needs. Vermont's surplus is about 2 billion pounds annually while the Pennsylvania surplus is 1.75 billion pounds.

Closeness of Pennsylvania dairy farms to large centers of population has become increasingly important to farmers. This is due largely to the rapidly increasing costs of transportation since 1973 and 1974.

In addition, soil, climate and topography in the Commonwealth lead to a kind of dairying that is only slightly affected by widely fluctuating feed prices. This occurs since much of the feed needs of dairy herds are produced on home farms.

The dairy "boom" in Pennsylvania is also seen as beneficial to consumers. Other factors remaining equal, more milk at the farm tends to create lower prices at the supermarket. Dr. Smith points out that milk and dairy

products have long been an economical source of a very important part of human diets.

"Currently, for about 13 percent of our food budgets, we receive about 22 percent of our dietary protein in the milk and dairy products that add so much variety to our meals."

Contrary to what some people may believe, retail prices of milk and dairy products have gone up less than prices of all foods generally, it was stated. The increase has also been less than the average price increases of all consumer products taken as a group.

Dr. Smith predicted that retail milk and dairy product prices will rise more slowly during the next several years. He indicated this will be due to probable future actions of the federal government — similar to those taken recently.

"The primary effect of government dairy programs," Dr. Smith says, "has been to moderate the wide swings in prices and production that might otherwise take place. Stability introduced into the market by government programs is important."

"Such stability reduces the risk and uncertainty facing dairy farmers and milk processors. With a fairly stable outlook, farmers and processors can carry out more highly efficient, lower cost operations than otherwise. Moreover, competition within the dairy industry assures that most cost savings are eventually passed along to the consumer," he concludes.

Extension offers barn plans

NEWARK, Del. — Free-stall dairy barns are popular and practical structures for housing dairy cattle. Generally, these barns help prevent mastitis and reduce housing-related cattle injuries and human labor requirements. Such reductions could offset the expense of building and maintaining warm types of units usually found in cold climates.

The University of Delaware Cooperative Extension Service has complete working drawings of several free-stall dairy barns. They are available free of charge from the extension agricultural engineer.

Plan 6196 features a partly open housing system with the feeding area on a south-facing open side. The plan also shows a milking area, milk room, and utility room. It was designed for the Northeast, but it is suitable for use elsewhere.

Plans 6218, 6250, and 6281 are designed for cold types of free-stall barns often used in warm climates. The plans have natural ventilation systems consisting of eave and ridge openings in combination with wall openings. Plan 6218 features a holding area (with flush tank) leading to a rotary milking system. Plan 6250 has only the housing space, since it was designed for areas where outside feeding may be possible or desirable. Plan 6281 includes all facilities in its design, including milking and maternity spaces.

Plan 6292 is for a warm type of dairy barn. Its ventilation system consists of a slot inlet and a multiple fan exhausts. This plan also includes all facilities in its design.

The size and details of building any of these barns would be governed by the equipment selected and by applicable health regulations. Before building, you should consult health authorities who regulate safe milk production in your area. They may have special requirements.

To obtain your free building plans, contact Delaware Extension agricultural engineer Ernest W. Walpole, Agricultural Hall, Newark, DE 19711.

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