

Dairy princess seminar

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The second evening speaker is a strong contrast, a farm wife and 4-H coach who is also a fashion color consultant. It's been a long day, and the girls should be feeling tired. But they are intent. They listen with interest to Melinda Johnson's comments on the importance of marketing and packaging yourself. When she asks for a volunteer to do a color analysis, hands pop up across the auditorium.

As she works her spell on Chester County princess Theresa Tkaczuk, the audience gets more involved. "Too yellow," one girl says, concerned about the color of a fabric next to Theresa's skin. "Oh, I like that one," another girl says as a rosy swatch appears next.

By the time the Washington-Greene counties princess Laurie Duran gets a turn, everyone is involved. They tease Melinda when she has difficulty matching a specific color group to Laurie's blond hair and brown eyes. As Melinda settles on a vibrant blue swatch that sets off Laurie's face perfectly, the princess looks in the mirror and announces, "Wonder Woman!" The others laugh along.

Soon the scheduled coordinator meeting has been bumped. The seminar leaders know there's something more important at work. When the color analysis lecture is over, the girls crowd around the dais. There's a girl from Crawford County, trying blue

swatches out on a girl from Armstrong County. There's a Dauphin County representative picking out just the right makeup for a Mercer County girl. They're standing on common ground at last.

By the time the seminar ends on Wednesday, they are adept spokespeople for their local dairy organizations. But moreso, they are friends.

Only of them will emerge as the state princess. Perhaps it will be the one who not only knows cows but looks like she stepped off a California beach. Or it may be the one who hasn't let the diagnosis of cancer hold her back; her courage is nothing less than astonishing. Perhaps it will be neither of these, a face that doesn't stand out from the crowd yet but that will blossom in the next two months.

As they hug each other and make plans to meet again in September at the 29th Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Coronation, the love is genuine, the tears are real. After all, they are princesses.

Avon East Lebanon 4-H Club

The Avon-East Lebanon 4-H club met recently in the Avon United Methodist Church.

Reports were given by Michelle Houser, secretary; Shelly Frick, treasurer; Jill Hoffer on Camp Shehaquea; Ann Grumbine on Leadership Congress; Becky Grumbine on County Demonstration Night; and Marsha Hain on her trip to England.

Four-H barbecue tickets were

distributed and 4-H fair forms completed.

Marsha Hain, Karen Fisher, Jill Hoffer, Michelle Houser and Emily Swanger presented musical selections.

Linda Boeshore and Susan Simmon led games and Ann Fake served refreshments.

The next meeting will be July 29 at 6 p.m. for crocheting and 6:30 p.m. for the regular meeting.



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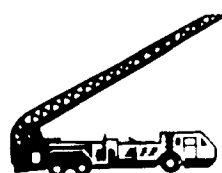
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