

Yonna Taylor Tops Competition to Become Bradford County Dairy Princess

BY BILL RALPH

TROY — A Canton High School junior, Yonna Taylor, became the 1986 Bradford County Dairy

Princess when the judges chose her from among three hopefuls. The pageant to elect this year's dairy princess was held in Troy,

Saturday evening, May 25 at the Troy High School auditorium.

Choked with emotion and holding back tears of joy, Miss Taylor was

crowned by her predecessor, Melissa Wilcox, who placed the rhinestone diadem on Yonna's head amid the cheers and applause from several hundred visitors and friends assembled there.

The judges also chose contender Karen Cole of Troy as the first alternate dairy princess and Shelly Brown of Rome as the second alternate.

To assist the judges in their decisions, each candidate was asked to give a short presentation. Miss Taylor appeared on stage dressed in a football player's uniform, dancing and singing "Milk's a great health kick."

Yonna Taylor grew up on her parent's dairy farm located in the far Southwest corner of Bradford County. The farm has been in the Taylor family for over 100 years. The Taylors milk 48 cows, mostly Holsteins, except for two Jersey cows which her father, Duane Taylor keeps for sentimental reasons in memory of his grandfather, who kept Jersey cows.

Duane Taylor is an ordained minister in the Disciples of Christ Church. Yonna's mother, JanNeita Taylor, is a substitute teacher and Yonna plans to pursue a teaching career in elementary education after finishing high school.

The outgoing dairy princess, Melissa Wilcox held back tears as she delivered the traditional

farewell address, thanking her family, the people of Bradford County and the press for their support. "I've learned a lot about myself," said Melissa. "It's been a most rewarding experience."

The alternate dairy princess, Karen Cole, is the daughter of Donald and Sandy Cole, who operate the High Spruce Dairy Farm near Troy. Second alternate, Shelley Brown comes from a large dairy farm operated by her parents, Larry and Lois Brown, and Larry's brother, Bob Brown near Rome.

Master of ceremonies for the evening was attorney Patrick Barrett, who skillfully guided the sometimes nervous girls through their routines. Judges were Donna Lee Simpson of Simolot Farms near Mansfield, Pa., Gordon Wood of Gor-Wood Farms, also near Mansfield; and Bobby Jones, vice president of Northeastern Farm Credit Service of Lewisburg.

The Cobblestones, a group of students from the Troy schools, led and instructed by Sherry Ayers, entertained the audience with several song and dance routines.

The dairy princess pageant is sponsored by the Bradford County Dairy Princess Committee in cooperation with the Bradford County Dairy Promotion Assoc. Barbara LaMont coordinated the project. Organ music was provided by Ellen Foust.



Bradford County dairy princess Yonna Taylor receives congratulations from her parents, Duane and JanNeita Taylor.

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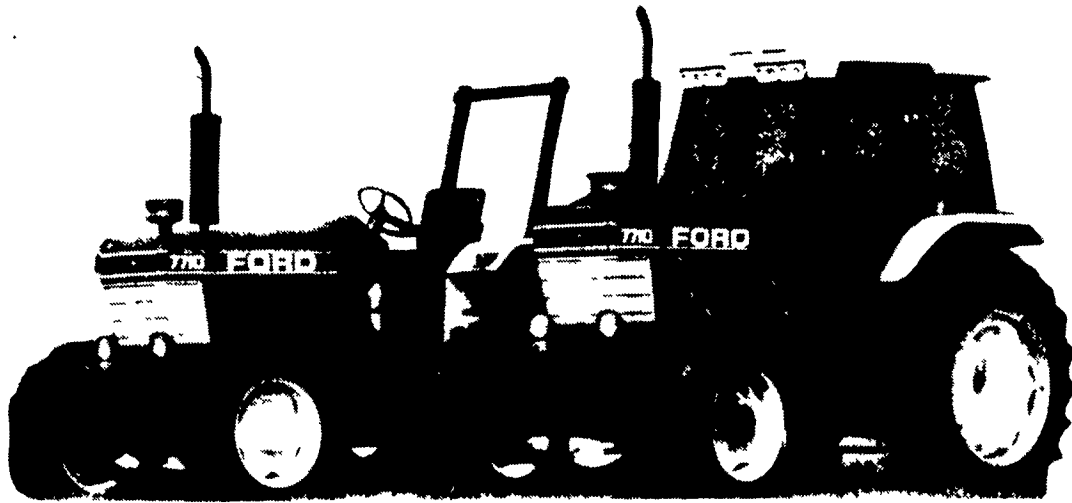
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