

New York Crowns Dairy Princess

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Jennie Depew from Argyle, New York in Washington County was crowned the 1993-94 New York State Dairy Princess on February 16 at Sheraton Inn, Syracuse, New York.

This year was the 30th anniversary pageant sponsored by the American Dairy Association and

Dairy Council, Inc. (ADADC). As state princess, Jennie received a \$1,200 scholarship and will devote an additional year speaking on behalf of New York's dairy industry. She has already served a year as a county dairy princess.

Christy L. Uhl of Randolph, New York, was named first alternate state princess. She received a

\$700 scholarship. Jennifer Beightol of Falconer, New York, was selected as second alternate state princess. She received a \$600 scholarship. Both alternate princesses will assist the state princess with various appearances throughout the state.

Dairy princesses from 31 counties competed in the February event. Selection of the state princess was based on a three-part judging process. The young women went through personal interviews, presented a three to five minute speech for an adult audience, and a school presentation appropriate for an elementary school audience. The young women were judged on their knowledge of the dairy, industry, enthusiasm, communication skills, creativity, poise, and appearance.

In addition to this, they created dairy promotion scrapbooks for competition. Christy Uhl of Cataugus County, Jennifer Beightol of Chautauqua County and Meg Kenyon of Delaware County were awarded \$75 in prize money for the top three scrapbooks.

Three speech awards of \$150 were presented to Sara Abend of Onondaga County, Rebecca Henderson of St. Lawrence County, and Stephanie Houser of Lewis County for their winning speeches and school presentations. Honorable Mention for speech presentations went to Christy Uhl, Jennifer Beightol, Jennie Depew and Judi Griffiths of Otsego County.

Valery Russell from Lafargeville in Jefferson County was chosen "Miss Congeniality" by her fellow princesses for her friendly and outgoing manner during the two-day competition. She was awarded \$50 from Ag Radio Network and received a silver heart-shaped jewel box on behalf of all the princess candidates.



Lorelei Crane, right, crowns Jennie Depew of Argyle, New York, at the 30th anniversary New York State Dairy Princess Pageant in Syracuse.



Have You Heard?

By Doris Thomas
Lancaster Extension
Home Economist

Appliance Tips

As the March winds howl, and the mercury hovers around the freezing point . . . it's the perfect time to shop for an air conditioner!

Many appliance retailers offer special deals on room air conditioners during the winter months, so smart consumers can plan ahead and save before summer starts to simmer.

After a relatively mild summer last year, some dealers may find themselves overstocked with air conditioners. Consumers who shop for these models during the off-season are often treated to low close-out prices.

Some appliance dealers may offer deferred financing, which lets you purchase an air conditioner in the winter without any payments until June or July.

A final advantage to shopping for an air conditioner now is that you can take extra time to shop around, compare prices and features . . . and avoid making a bad choice in the heat of the summer.

Like buying a wool sweater in May, shopping for air conditioners in the winter may seem odd at first . . . but smart shopping knows no season!

Dealing With Water Heater Gas Build-Up
Unpacking, checking phone

messages, turning up the thermostat are all part of coming home from a winter vacation.

But wait! Before turning on any water-using appliances, one more precaution is in order: running your water to get rid of hydrogen gas build-up.

Hot water systems produce hydrogen gas as a result of a chemical reaction between the water and the corrosive protection device inside the water heater.

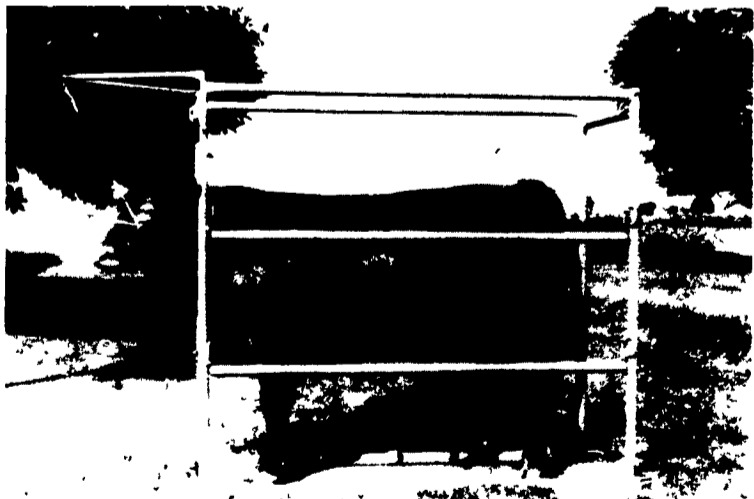
During normal hot water use, this gas escapes in small safe amounts. But when nobody uses hot water for an extended period of time, the gas can accumulate in the water heater, even if it is turned off. On rare occasions, this can even result in an explosion from an open flame or a spark from an electrical appliance.

When returning from a vacation of two weeks or more, turn on the hot water faucets and let the water run for about two minutes before using your washer or dishwasher. This releases any built-up hydrogen gas. Be sure to extinguish any open flame or smoking materials before running the water.

This simple safety tip is also handy when moving into a new home, where the hot water has not been used for a while.

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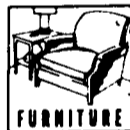
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