

Marci Harnish Reigns As Lancaster Dairy Princess

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LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
 — Marci Harnish reigns as Lancaster County Dairy Princess. She and two alternates, Jesslyn Oberholtzer and Sherri Bollinger, will promote dairy products in the county that ranks first in milk production in Pennsylvania and fourth in the nation.

At the pageant, held on June 19 at the Farm and Home Center, the three contestants performed a skit and answered an impromptu question before the audience after individual interviews with the judges.

Marci is no novice when it comes to promoting dairy products.

As part of her promotional skit during the pageant, she hosted the Marci Dairy Talk Show, where such famous guests as Denny Moo and Barbara Bovine appear. But at Saturday night's pageant, Katy Cow appeared to tell about her ancestors who had arrived in Jamestown, Va. in 1611 to begin the long tradition of providing good tasting nutrition to the inhabitants of the U.S. Marci, who with a switch of clothing, portrayed both talk show host and Katy the cow, told the audience of the need to use Real seal genuine dairy products and not imitation.

When competition came to answering the impromptu question posed by master of ceremonies Grover C. Gouker Jr., Marci answered with unhesitating poise. The following question was asked of each contestant: What quality would you try to instill in children

that would be most helpful in life?

Marci answered that she thinks morals and values are the most beneficial values to instill in children. She is dismayed by what she called the biggest decline in morals in the U.S. The ruin of a nation starts in the home, she said.

Marci is a senior at Manheim Central High School, where she is president of FFA. She is also president of the county FFA organization. She has participated in the school musical. Next week, she will attend the Pennsylvania Co-op Council for four days and she received a scholarship to attend the FFA Leadership Conference held in Washington D.C.

Marci helps milk 50 cows on the dairy farm owned by her parents Bob and Marti Harnish. She has an older brother Greg and a 14-year-old sister Kristen.

After high school, Marci plans to study agri-business at Penn State.

Alternates Jesslyn Oberholtzer of Elizabethtown and Sherri Bollinger of Quarryville are eager to promote the product produced on their family farms.

Jesslyn, the daughter of Clair and Laverne Oberholtzer of Elizabethtown, told the audience of the many animals around the world that supply milk. Of milk's many nutrients, its 3.8 percent fat is often viewed as ugly but it has many important functions, she reminded the audience.

Jesslyn believes the most important quality to instill in children is friendship as it is important that

people learn to get along despite their differences.

Sherri Bollinger, daughter of Dale and Cindy Bollinger of Quarryville, portrayed a growing female and the value that dairy products provide through the stages of infant, child, teenager, adult, and pregnant woman.

Sherri believes the value most important to instill in children is confidence in self. If confidence is instilled in the beginning, life becomes a smooth adventure, she said.

Judges Joy Crouthers, Dr. David Morrow, and Linda Morrow conducted interviews, and judged the presentation, and answers to impromptu questions in order to determine the winner of the contest.

Outgoing Dairy Princess Jill Harnish finished her reign by answering letters addressed to her "Dear Jillian" advice column. She included slides of her past activities that included promotions in 72 schools, 16 groceries, 18 radio spots, and 12 non-farm events. With outgoing alternate dairy princess Heather Becker, Jill traveled 12,000 miles and made 250 telephone calls.

Commissioner James Huber attended the pageant to present a milk toast in honor of the dairy industry and the county commissioners' proclamation that June is Dairy Month.

Dairy Darlings were chosen to assist the princess and alternates in milk promotion. The Dairy Darlings are Laurie Miller, daughter of

Donnie and Linda Miller; Shannon Benner, daughter of Herb and Melba Benner; Corrie Martin, daughter of Leonard and Joyce Martin; Kelli Aaron, daughter of Tom and Sue Aaron; Andrea Hershey, daughter of Steve and Brenda Hershey; and Sherry Rineer, daughter of Rick and Linda Rineer.

Outgoing Dairy Darlings recognized for their contribution to milk

promotion included Lisa Blank, Jill Hoover, Becky Young, and Elizabeth Young.

Winners of the coloring contest are as follows:

Five-year-olds: 1. Kimberly Myer, 2. Emily Reed, 3. Katy Grove.

Six-year-olds: 1. Melissa Bowler, 2. Meagan Gram, 3. Amanda Stoltzfus.

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Lancaster County Dairy Princess Marci Harnish begins reign.



Judges at the Lancaster County Dairy Princess Pageant are, from left, Linda Morrow, Dr. David Morrow, and Joy Crothers.



The family of Dairy Princess Marci includes parents, Bob and Marti, Kristen, and Greg.



Rain resulted in the planned outdoor reception being moved inside the Farm and Home Center before the pageant. After the pageant, an ice cream sundae bar was served.



These three will promote milk in the county that ranks number 1 in milk production in Pennsylvania, and the fourth in the nation. From left are Alternate Jesslyn Oberholtzer, Dairy Princess Marci Harnish, center, and Alternate Sherri Bollinger.