

Bechtel Reigns As Tioga County Dairy Princess

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Tioga Co. Correspondent
COVINGTON (Tioga Co.) — Everything changes, even the dairy industry. That theme, and the skit performed to portray those changes, earned Rebecca Bechtel her crown as the 1993 Tioga

County Dairy Princess. Besides describing how the dairy industry established the Real Seal program, she even wrote a song, which she sung as part of her act.
 "Over the years artificial dairy products have been promoted. I wanted to tell people that's why

it's so important to look for the Real Seal," explained Bechtel.
 The sixteen-year-old daughter of Robert and Dianne Bechtel of Covington plans to study veterinary science upon her graduation from Mansfield High School in 1995. In the meantime, however, she will be busy promoting the dairy industry throughout the county and state.

No doubt Bechtel's interests and hobbies have helped her prepare for the tough job ahead. She served as a Dairy Maid for two years, holds memberships in the Pickadilly and Trailblazers 4-H clubs, and owns four cows (three Brown Swiss and one Holstein). Her family's farm is the Rock-B-Ridge Dairy with a mixed herd of Brown Swiss, Jerseys and Holsteins. In addition, Bechtel is a member of the Covington Baptist Youth Group, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and her school's Student Council, basketball and volleyball teams, and the Future Business Leaders of America.

Already well into her role, she has appeared on floats in the Liberty Blockhouse Festival and the Mansfield Fourth of July parades. Among future appearances she has scheduled are Tioga County Farm-City Day and the Tioga County Fair.

In what the judges called a close race, Bechtel competed against Laura Fitch of Roaring Branch for the royal title. Fitch's skit included a telephone conversation in which she enthusiastically informed her listening audience of facts about dairy products and their benefits.



The Purple Cow (Nichole Gummo) joins 1993 Tioga County Dairy Princess Rebecca Bechtel, Alternate Laura Fitch, and Dairy Maid Erin Gummo on the Tioga County Granges' float at the Fourth of July Parade in Mansfield.

Chosen as Alternate, Fitch is the sixteen-year-old daughter of Elwin and Charlene Fitch of Roaring Branch. Upon graduating from the Canton Jr.-Sr. High School in 1995, she plans to major in math at Mansfield University.

Active in 4-H, Fitch has served the organization in the capacity as ambassador, vice president of the County Council and secretary of her local club, Country Warriors, and is the Jr. Holstein Club treasurer. She owns six Holsteins on the family farm, Four Winds. Fitch also enjoys sports. She has served as a player on the high school basketball team, as the manager of the school's volleyball team, and as a Little League score keeper. In addition, she has participated as a stage manager at the high school, and collects stamps and porcelain dolls.

Serving as Dairy Maids this year are Jennifer Johnson, Heather Wood, and Erin Gummo.

Johnson is the thirteen-year-old daughter of Charles F. and Sandra Johnson of Tioga. Among her endeavors, she has been a member of

4-H, her high school's band and student council, has served as seventh grade class president, maintained a 3.9 grade point average, and is a recipient of Senator Madigan's Citizenship Award.

Wood, 14, is the daughter of Tim and Jill Wood of Mansfield. She has enjoyed serving as a Dairy Maid in the past, is active in 4-H, her high school's basketball team and student council, and cross-country skis.

Gummo, 15, is the daughter of Donald and Jackie Gummo of Wellsboro. She is a member of 4-H Canoeing Club and participates in her high school's band and jazz band.



1993 Tioga County Dairy Princess Rebecca Bechtel and Alternate Laura Fitch

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