

Huntingdon Dairy Princess Is No Stranger To Dairy Industry

GAIL STROCK

Mifflin Co. Correspondent

In June, Kara Tussey was crowned Huntingdon County's Dairy Princess. She's no stranger to being busy, and no stranger to the dairy industry. Now she's combining both as Dairy Princess.

As a little girl, this Penn State sophomore always looked up to dairy princesses, but didn't have a chance to run until this year.

"I was going to run as a junior or senior in high school, but was drum major, which took a lot of my time. And I didn't want to run my first year in college. I wanted to get adjusted," Tussey explained.

She's planning to take the minimum 12 credits at Penn State this fall as a dairy and animal science student, giving her more time for Dairy Princess activities.

"It's already been busy," she laughed. "I've talked at a Grange meeting and other places. The people are great. It's fun!"

Tussey feels there's a "knowledge" gap between what happens on dairy farms, how products are produced, and consumers. She feels consumers need to know there are lowfat choices when it comes to dairy products. As dairy princess, she hopes to help the public become more aware of the dairy aspect of agriculture and will promote dairy products, relying on her home dairy farm experience and dairy princess training.

Daughter of Raymond and Susan Tussey, Kara's favorite job on their 200-acre farm near Jackson's Corner, is milking. Her brother Eric, 21, farms full time with his parents and Kara helps when she can.

Tussey said her dairy background helped her obtain part-time summer employment at Wilson's Outdoor Store at the Nittany Mall near State College.

The employer said they don't hire students but decided to hire Tussey because he knew dairy farmers are dependable. She's also taking one class this summer and is involved in Penn State's Dairy and Animal Science Club, the PSU OUtting Club, PSU Intramurals, and Lifehouse, a "Living in a Free Environment" drug-and-alcohol-free dormitory floor.

Tussey said her 11 years in 4-H helped her gain confidence in front of people. She is now in her final year of 4-H and is president of the countywide Dairy Club. She has gone to National 4-H Congress in Chicago as a dairy representative and is local president of the Junior Holstein Association.



Joining Kara Tussey is Victoria, a two-year-old, who'd rather be back with the rest of the herd.

She has shown Holsteins each of her 11 years in 4-H, and in 1989, placed second in the three-year-old class in state competition, earning Reserve Junior All-Pennsylvania and a picture in *Pennsylvania Profiles*. Last year, Tussey stood as a Pennsylvania Junior Holstein Distinguished Member finalist and she'll compete again this year.

To compete for the title of Huntingdon's Dairy Princess, Tussey asked "Cows Your Knowledge," pulling several "contest-

ants" from the audience. As this game show host, she described a dairy product then hoped for correct answers.

Competing with Tussey were Monica Goshorn and Tracy Noel. Both will serve as alternates.

Monica Goshorn, 16, is a junior at Southern Huntingdon High School. Her parents are John and Jennifer Goshorn of Blairs Mills.

Tracy Noel, daughter of James Noel and Leslie Wilson of Alexandria, is a 17-year-old senior at Juniata Valley High School.



The Princess and her Court pose at Huntingdon's Dairy Princess Contest. From left, Monica Goshorn, first runner-up poses with Huntingdon's Dairy Princess Kara Tussey, along with last year's alternate, Mindy Curfman (seated), and this year's second alternate, Tracy Noel.



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