

Pa. Apple Queen Believes Ag Should Attract More Attention

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Franklin Co. Correspondent
WAYNESBORO (Franklin Co.) — "The ag community needs to have more attention. America is getting away from the farming industry. Agriculture is 20 percent of the Gross National Product; we need to make it higher. Ag is basic to me, but many people in the cities don't understand it," Franklin County Apple Queen Heidi Martin told the audience at the Pennsylvania Apple Queen pageant.

She made her remarks in response to the question, "Do you believe that a strong agriculture industry is important to our society?"

About 60 people attended the event, held at the Savoy Restaurant July 20.

Master of Ceremonies Elliott Schlosser also asked Heidi, "If you are named state queen, what would you like to accomplish during your reign?"

"It seems so much bigger than Franklin County," Heidi, who wore a peach-colored dress, replied. "I would promote apples to kids in schools. I'd like to go on the radio. When the message is said over and over, people will go out and buy apples. I'd like to take turns with other commodity queens writing articles for the newspapers."

"I feel like a great weight has been lifted from my shoulders," Heidi said after the pageant. As state queen, Heidi received a check for \$200.

A fifth-generation member of the family who operates Tracey's Orchard near Greencastle, Heidi has been involved with fruit all her life. She is the daughter of Randy and Sandi Martin.

Her grandparents, Ralph and Connie Tracey, were her sponsors. Heidi helps to sell the fruit at the orchard's sales shed from June through Christmas.

A recent graduate of Greencastle-Antrim High School, Heidi was a member of the National Honor Society and the yearbook staff. She hopes to find a job in the business field.

Crowned Pennsylvania Apple Princess was Brandy Carey, 18, Adams County Apple Queen. Brandy is the daughter of Philip and Linda Carey of York Springs. A graduate of Bermudian Springs High School, Brandy is a volunteer with the York Springs ambulance corps and enjoys horseback riding and softball. She is active in Girl Scouting and 4-H. Brandy will spend the next year promoting Adams County apples and attending the Hanover Licensed Practical Nursing program. She received a check for \$100.

Judges for the event were Barbara Diefenderfer, who conducts apple promotions for the Maryland State Apple Commission; Shawn Hardy, Greencastle Bureau chief for *The Record Herald*; and Darby Shaffer, mayor of Biglerville. Emcee Schlosser, a former fruit grower, is an employee of Knouse Foods in Gardners.

Apple Queen committee chairpersons were Sandy Kime, Adams County, and Carole Tracey, Franklin County.

In her farewell speech, 1992 Pennsylvania Apple Queen Jennifer Witmer of Franklin County said that she had had a "busy and rewarding year, adding that the high points of her reign were



1992 Pennsylvania Apple Queen Jennifer Witmer, right, crowns her successor, Heidi Martin.

attending the Pennsylvania State Farm Show and the Shenandoah Apple Festival in Shenandoah, Virginia.

"The people in this industry are special," she said, "I have a deep respect for all those in the apple industry."



Carolyn Weaver, Dairy Council's nutrition education specialist (left), reads a story from one of the books donated to the Coyle Free Children's Library.

Dairy Council Donates Children's Books

SOUTHAMPTON (Bucks Co.) — In partnership with the Downtown Kiwanis Club, Dairy Council of Southampton, has donated new books on dairy and nutrition to the Coyle Free Children's Library in Chambersburg. Colorful books were made available to teach the importance of agriculture and balanced nutrition to young children.

Dairy Council and the Downtown Kiwanis Club celebrated the occasion recently, by holding a book donation ceremony, "Books and Food Help Me GROW." Over

60 children and their parents attended the event and were treated to an original story told by professional storyteller, Richard Ezell. Stickers, balloons, coloring books, nutrition materials, and free ice cream were also given to the kids on this fun day. Beth Fairchild, children's librarian, accepted the 27 new books from the Kiwanis and Dairy Council.

Through this project with the Downtown Kiwanis, the Dairy Council nutrition education message will continue to reach children in a fun and educational way.

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