

Poultry Queen Melissa Stauffer Represents State, County



Melissa Yoder crowns Melissa Stauffer as the new Lancaster County Poultry Queen.

LOU ANN GOOD
Lancaster Farming Staff
LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)
— On her 19th birthday, Melissa Stauffer captured the Lancaster Poultry Queen crown at the annual pageant held at the Farm and Home Center on August 6.

The college sophomore, from a poultry farm in Ephrata, will also assume the Pennsylvania Poultry Queen title and responsibilities.

Chosen to assist Melissa in poultry promotion are Mindy Duldig of Manheim, first alternate, and Heather Fox of Lancaster, second alternate who was also named Miss Congeniality.

The three contestants competed in the day-long judging that included personal interviews with the judges, a skit presentation, and answering an impromptu question before the banquet audience.

Melissa, who may appear a bit shy when first introduced to strangers, has plenty to say when questioned about the poultry industry. She will tell you that the average layer in Lancaster County produces 271 eggs a year. With 8.2 million layers on 930 poultry farms that means 71 eggs are being laid every second in the county.

She's prepared to allay the fears of consumers who question

whether or not they will get salmonella food poisoning from eating eggs, because she knows that with adequate refrigeration and cooking, the bacteria is nothing to be feared.

These poultry facts are a few of those the poultry queen is required to know as she represents the industry at schools, fairs, Farm Show, and other promotional events held throughout the year.

Because the poultry queen will make numerous public appearances throughout her reign, contestants are required to present a skit or speech geared for the banquet audience. The three contestants incorporated humor with plenty of nutritional facts about chickens, turkeys, and eggs in the presentations.

In her skit presentation, Melissa touted Big Foot Omelets sold at her Chicken Hut Delivery. The 2x1-foot omelets made from two dozen eggs and 41 other poultry products were offered for unbelievable size and nutritional value.

Mindy used her artistic ability to illustrate a comprehensive teaching session on "egg 'o nomics, chick 'o nomics, and turk 'o nomics."

Heather, dressed as an "unordinary" rooster told what the ladies

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Pennsylvania and Lancaster County Poultry Queen is Melissa Stauffer, who was crowned during the annual pageant on August 6.



These two form a team. During 1992-93 Pennsylvania Poultry Queen Melissa Yoder and Lancaster Poultry Queen Mary Sauder worked together to promote the poultry industry.



Clark and Lucy Stauffer and 16-year-old daughter Michele congratulate daughter Melissa who reigns as poultry queen for both Lancaster County and the state. Another daughter, Janelle, 13, was unable to attend the pageant.



Guests attend the reception that precedes the annual poultry queen pageant and banquet.



Entertainment was provided by Jimmy LaRue and Band.