

Dairy Royalty Reigns In New York

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Jennifer Emerling from Perry, New York in Wyoming County, was crowned the 1994-95 New York State Dairy Princess on February 22 at the Sheraton Inn, Liverpool, New York.

Emerling was awarded a \$1,200 scholarship as well as \$150 for being a speech winner and \$75 for having a winning scrapbook. She will spend a year making appearances on behalf of New York's dairy industry. The new state princess has already served almost a year as a county dairy princess.

Lillian Lunde of Apalachin, New York in Tioga County was named first Alternate State Princess. She received a \$700 scholarship and \$75 as a scrapbook winner. Heather Ivett of South Dayton, New York in Chautauqua County was selected as second Al-

ternate State Princess. She received a \$600 scholarship and \$150 for being a speech award winner. Both alternate princesses will assist the state princess with various appearances throughout the state.

Selection of the state princesses was based on a three-part judging process. The young women went through personal interviews, presented a three to five minute speech for an adult audience, and presented a school program appropriate for an elementary school audience. The candidates were also judged on their knowledge of the dairy industry, enthusiasm, communication skills, creativity, poise, and appearance.

Other pageant winners were Lori Shaw of Delaware County who was awarded \$75 for her winning scrapbook, and Tammi Mc-

Bath of St. Lawrence County who was awarded \$150 in the speech category. Honorable Mention for speech presentations were Suzan Jenne, Chenango County; and Anna Marie DeHart, Lewis County. Rebecca Jo Blunt, Oneida County, and Jaime Pudney, Cortland County, were both speech and overall pageant finalists. Other overall pageant finalists were Harriet Pimm, Orange County, and Jessica Wickham, Schuylar County.

Amy Hesser of Chemung County was chosen "Miss Congeniality" by her fellow princesses for her friendly and outgoing manner during the two-day competition. She received a bouquet, silver heart-shaped jewel box and silver identification bracelet on behalf of all the princess candidates.

The dairy princess program is designed to promote the consumption and sale of milk and dairy products to consumers and to create better relations between urban and rural people through one-on-one contact at the local level. There are currently 36 dairy princesses and their courts working on behalf of New York's dairy farm families.



New York State Dairy Princess Jennifer Emerling from Tioga County, center, is flanked by First Alternate Lillian Lunde from Tioga County, left, and Second Alternate Heather Ivett from Chautauqua County.

Time To Start Indoor Plant Transplants

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Enthusiastic home gardeners — eager for an end to winter's chill — can rejoice. Although it's a little early to really get out and work the soil, it's not too early to start flower and vegetable transplants indoors.

Most seeds should be planted five to six weeks before it's time to set the plants outside, according to experts at the Home and Garden Information Center of the Cooperative Extension Service, University of Maryland at College Park.

"Many gardeners start their seeds too early," says Extension horticulture specialist Ray Bosmans. "Then their plants are ready to be moved outside before the last frost dates." These dates range

from mid- to late April on the Eastern Shore to mid-May in most parts of western Maryland.

Starting your own transplants can be rewarding — and save you money, too. It's not particularly difficult, says Bosmans, as long as you can provide adequate light and a suitable growing medium.

He recommends mixes of peat moss, perlite or vermiculite, which are sterile and drain well. Place several seeds in rows of attached containers designed especially for starting transplants.

Unless you have south-facing windows and strong sunlight, seedlings will not do well on a window sill. Bosmans suggests growing transplants under fluorescent lights to supplement or replace natural light. Cool white

tubes work very well.

Suspend the light fixture about six inches above the seedlings, leaving it on 14 to 16 hours a day. Raise the light as the plants grow.

Transplants need some time to adjust to the outdoor environment before being planted. You can do this by placing the flats outside on nice days in a semi-shaded location for a week before transplanting them to their permanent location.

For more information about growing and transplanting seed-

lings, Maryland residents can call the Home and Garden Information Center at 1-800-342-2507. Extension specialists and master gardeners are available to answer

questions between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m., Monday through Friday. Pre-recorded information can be accessed via touch-tone telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

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