

Jani Burke Wears Bradford Dairy Princess Crown

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Bradford Co. Correspondent
EAST SMITHFIELD (Bradford Co.) — "I'm totally shocked," said Jani Burke, daughter of Gary and Edith Burke, of Sugar Run, after being crowned Bradford County's new Dairy Princess. "The competition was really good this year."

Indeed, Ms. Burke was not the only one to feel that the competition was tough. Judges Charles Ruslavage, retired health and physical education teacher from Clarion University, Tonya Martin, 1991 Pa. First Alternate Dairy Princess, and Stephanie Myers, New York Dairy Princess coordinator, had the arduous task of selecting the new dairy princess and her court from a field of five talented contestants.

Chosen as the first alternate was Kirsten MacBride, daughter of Robert and Deborah MacBride, of Troy, while Danielle Pepper, daughter of Edward and Pamela Pepper, of Canton, will wear the second alternate banner.

Other contestants in the pageant were Carrie Green, daughter of Randy Greene of Canton and Nancy Greene also of Canton, and Ellen Keeney, daughter of William and Bonnie Kenney of Wyalusing.

As part of the pageant held at the SRU Middle School in East Smithfield, Saturday, June 4, each contestant had to present a skit and answer an impromptu question.

Ms. Burke inspired the crowd as she whipped the members of her "cream team" into shape. "Welcome to the Bradford County 'Cream Team Training Camp. I'm your coach, Milk Daily, and I'm here to coach you to a gold medal. Being chosen for this team is a great honor and you should be proud to represent your county."

She continued to give her team the facts that they would need to work hard to promote their sponsor, "Real".

Ms. MacBride carried the audience back in time to the days of the knights in shining armor as she told the story of the Knights of the Butterchurn as they reigned victorious in the king's dairy tournament, because they drank plenty of milk.

Posing as "Nellie, the singing cow," Ms. Pepoer said, "I teach people just like you, the important facts about dairy products, things like, June is dairy month and things with the real seal on them contain vitamins like A and D and



1993 Bradford County Dairy Princess Amy VanBlarcom, crowns Jani Burke the 1994 Bradford County Dairy Princess at the pageant.

calcium and riboflavin and many more minerals." She then reminded the crowd to "Take a little drink for a healthy body and a pearly white smile."

Carrie Greene made the transition from a non-milk drinking teenager who knew nothing about dairy products, to one who drank plenty of milk after learning more about it while completing a school project.

In her skit, Ms. Keeney told the audience where milk comes from and how it reaches the consumer using cut-out pictures. She reminded people of all the dairy products and about looking for the real seal.

Each contestant was also asked to respond to the judges' question, "Most of the non-dairy public looks at a dairy princess as a beauty contest winner. What can you do to change this image?"

Answers centered around the work that each contestant must do to prepare for the pageant and the knowledge of the industry that each girl must possess.

Ms. Burke received her crown from outgoing Bradford County Dairy Princess Amy VanBlarcom. "Thank you to everyone here this evening, for the support of the dairy industry and your support for me. Before this evening began, Stu Rosengrant asked me if I would need a roll of paper towels. I told him, 'No, I can handle it. I survived the year as dairy princess.' Well," said a tearful Ms. VanBlarcom, "I guess I proved myself wrong."

Following up on last year's performance, Ms. VanBlarcom reminded the crowd of her belief, "If you believe it, and conceive it, then you can achieve it." I believe

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Five dairy maids will assist the Bradford County Dairy Princess and her court. They are from left, Stacey Mattocks, Desirae Pepper, Robin Wilson, Christina Saxton, Kimberly Davis and Holly Mattocks.

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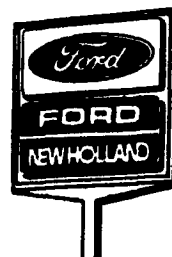
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