

Natalie Welch Wears Somerset Dairy Princess Crown

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Somerset Co. Correspondent
SOMERSET (Somerset Co.) — Natalie Welch, 17, was selected Somerset County Dairy Princess in a pageant held at the Somerset Area High School. She succeeds Stephanie Singo.

Her parents are David and Connie Welch, Berlin.

Natalie managed to impersonate females from three age groups in her dairy skit by skillfully maneuvering her garments. And when she was finished, the audience knew why older women, expectant mothers, and teen-agers, need to drink their milk for continuing healthy bodies and minds.

"I think there needs to be a different image for dairy," she said later. "There is lots of promotion, but many teen-agers and older people still don't drink enough milk." They believe that dairy foods are harmful because they're told dairy products are high in fat and cholesterol.

At her job at Somerset McDonald's, Natalie observes the sale of milk drinks compared to soft drinks ordered by the customers. Unfortunately, soft drinks accom-

pany the orders more often than do the dairy drinks, she says.

The eight-year member of the Milksquirts 4-H club is a senior at the Berlin-Brothersvalley High School and busy in the county junior Holstein club, county 4-H council, school and church activities.

She's the youngest of four Welch children and lives on a 180-acre Welch farm.

Kelly Bittner was named the first alternate dairy princess and voted Miss Congeniality by her pageant peers.

A 1994 graduate of Berlin-Brothersvalley High School, Kelly is the daughter of Franklin and Betty Jo Bittner, Berlin.

Her time, until heading for the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown this fall, is divided between working two jobs — with White Oak Veterinary Clinic and at Hoss's Steak and Sea House.

Also participating in the contest were Karen Rhoads, the daughter of Allen and Judith Rhoads, Stoystown, and Michelle McKinley, the daughter of Michael and Jackie McKinley, Stoystown.

Both girls are active in 4-H,



Natalie Welch, center, is crowned the 1994 Somerset County Dairy Princess by her predecessor Stephanie Singo, far left. Second left is Kelly Bittner, first alternate and Miss Congeniality. Flanking Welch on right is Michelle McKinley and on the end, Karen Rhoads, pageant contestants.

their school, church and as community volunteers.

The new Somerset County Dairy Maids, Michelle Shaffer and Gretchen Fox, were introduced by Erica Walker, whom they

are succeeding. Erica and her alternate, Rikki Johnson, her alternate, announced numerous door prize winners.

Eight Little Misses had a pageant. They were Shannon Mc-

Williams, Greta Moyer, Sharayah Scheffel, Hannah Scheffel, Jerika Yoder, Rebekah Fox, Amy Bocsy and Ashley Coddington.

Their debonair young escorts were Joel Yoder, David Bittner, Jarred Fox and Kevin Bittner.

Judges for the event were Pat Brant, Somerset County; Jan Lidwell, Cambria County; and Ray Diebold, Blair County.

Master of ceremonies, Robert Brown, Somerset Co. extension agent, also introduced a number of former Somerset Co. dairy princesses attending the 28-year-old pageant.

Dairy pageant committee members are Angie Shober, Vicki Stahl, Brenda Slingluff, Tomalee Will, Diane Bittner, Melissa Fox, Susan Yoder, and Jill Bastian.

Members of the dairy promotion committee are Gloria Kaufman, Charlene McWilliams, Barbara Brant, Nina Ferko, Evelyn Moyer, Shelly Walker, Dorothy Naugle, Sue Tressler, Carol Flannery, Helen Mishler, and Pat Saylor.



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