

Franklin County Dairy Princess Plays Violin To Tell Milk Story

CHAMBERSBURG (Franklin Co.) — Larissa Mellott, with a program that included her playing her violin, was chosen as Franklin County's 1994 Dairy Princess during the county's 27th annual Dairy Princess Pageant.

The daughter of Gregory and Rhonda Mellott of St. Thomas, the James Buchanan High School senior was one of three contestants in the event at the Lighthouse Restaurant.

Mellott was chosen after performing a skit in which she played "Old MacDonald's Farm" on her violin. She sang about how the old farmer had pigs, chickens, sheep, and the most productive

animals, cows Brownie, Meg and Ellie.

She sang also about what products the cows' milk produced for the consumer, milk, butter, yogurt, ice cream, products that as Mellott put it, "keep you moo-ving."

When asked to answer the pageant question, How to explain a dairy princess's job to someone who had never heard of a dairy princess, Mellott said she would reply that, "The dairy princess is the person who promotes the dairy industry; promotes the farmers' products; and tells people how important the industry is to everyone."

She said her own goal as the new dairy princess is to "promote milk as an important part of the diet and include it in everyone's daily diet."

Milk and the dairy industry will play a big role in her own future as well, she said. Mellott said she intends to go to college and major in veterinary medicine and embryo transfer.

In addition to her activities with her school's concert band, Mellott is involved in 4-H horse and pony activities and is an FFA member.

She also shows dairy cows in events at the Shippensburg and Franklin County fairs and the South Central Show. Last year, she won a grand champion animal title at the Franklin County Fair.

Her family milks 65 cows, Brown Swiss and Holsteins, on 109 acres. She owns 28 cows and heifers, of which half are owner-bred.

The first runner-up in the pageant was Beth Meyers, the daughter of Mark and Lyndell Meyers of Chambersburg and a senior in the Greencastle-Antrim School District.

For her presentation, Meyers dressed up as Beth the Bossy Clown who came to a birthday party to tell all the children the im-

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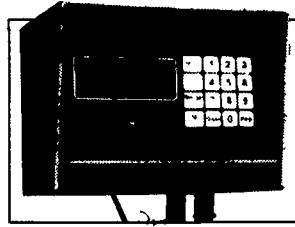
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