

Farm-City Council Takes Ag Message To New York

QUEENS, N.Y. — A New York Farm-City Council delegation traveled to the 12th Annual Queens County Fair, held September 17-18 at the Queens County Farm Museum.

For the third year, Farm-City Council has participated in the traditional fair, complete with livestock competitions, craft demonstrations, pie-eating and corn husking contests, make-your-own scarecrow, hayrides, and a petting zoo. Amid these old-fashioned surroundings, Farm-City Council brought the modern view of agriculture.

The Farm-City tent promoted agriculture through video, displays, posters, recipes, and handouts. City school teachers were targeted with New York ag in the classroom materials. In addition, the group was on hand to answer consumer questions about the agricultural industry and product nutrition.

New to this year's activities were regular shows about dairy products presented by New York State Dairy Princess Jennifer Emerling. Entitled "The Little Engine that Mooved," Jenny's

story depicts a train attempting to make it to Dairyland. While capturing the attention of the Queens children with her unique story, Jenny explains the importance of dairy foods in their diet.

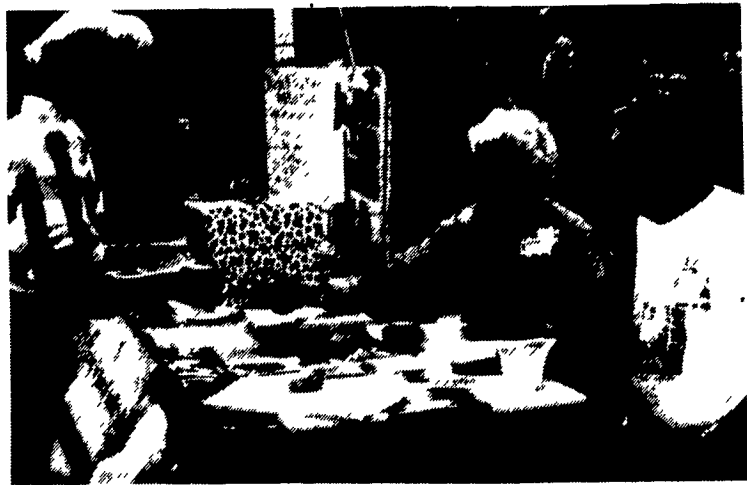
According to Emerling, "Relaying our positive milk message is especially important to those living in the inner city. The Queens County Museum was a great place to work one-on-one with the children in meeting this mission."

Throughout the day, children were invited to make "cow cards" in celebration of 500 years of cattle in the New World brought by Christopher Columbus in 1494. Hundreds of children stopped by to make the cards, complete with pictures of cows, both beef and dairy. The cards will be presented to cattle associations signifying the agricultural awareness that was developed among the inner-city children.

In addition to educating New York City residents about modern agriculture, Farm-City Council wanted to take it a step further by giving them a chance to visit the country.



In celebration of 500 years of cattle in the New World, these children made birthday cards featuring beef and dairy cows. Cattle were brought by Christopher Columbus in 1494 on one of his later voyages to the New World. This activity created an awareness among the Queens children of where their food originates.



Elaine Swiler, New York Beef Cattlewomen and Charlie Kresge, Agrimerica offer agricultural education materials to thousands of New York City residents.

A drawing was held for a one-night's stay at a Finger Lakes region bed and breakfast. Grace Kelly, Flushing, N.Y. will visit Patchwork Piece Bed and Breakfast, owned by dairy farmers Betty and Bill Mitchell, Avoca, N.Y.

Rita Dee-Ross, Bayside, N.Y. and Harriet and Kenny Gelbhardt, Elmhurst, N.Y. will receive a cookbook and T-shirt, respectively, as runner-up prizes.

Representing New York Farm-City Council were Charlie Kresge, Agrimerica; Elaine Swiler, New York Beef Cattlewomen; Stephanie Meyers, American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Inc.; New York State Dairy Princess Jennifer Emerling; and Betty Emerling, dairy farmer. Also assisting were David Wagner, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cheryl Zablocki, Dairylea Cooperative.



New York State Dairy Princess Jennifer Emerling educates the next generation about the nutritional benefits of milk and dairy products.

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