

# Lori Evans Reigns As Maryland Farm Queen

**KAREN BUTLER**

**Maryland Correspondent**

FREDERICK, Md. — Lori Evans of Oakland is Maryland's new Farm Queen. The young lady from Garrett County edged out other contestants at this year's pageant, held Sunday evening to kick off the 114th Maryland State Fair. She will reign over the 10-day fair, which runs through September 4. Lori is the daughter of Gary and Linda Evans.

Nineteen young ladies vied for the title relinquished by outgoing queen Jami Todd. Bobbie Jo Eaton of Caroline County was crowned first runner-up. Other farm royalty selected included Frederick County's Autumn Dee Guyton, selected as second runner-up, St. Mary's County Farm Queen Rebecca Johnson, who took third runner-up, and Harford County Queen Katrina Fischer as fourth runner-up.

Maryland Farm Bureau President C. William Knill was on hand to remind the crowd that Maryland has a tradition; it is always a hot, steamy night when the pageant is held. And this year proved no exception.

The contest is sponsored by the MFB and the Maryland State Fair. Sandra Pinckney, anchor at News Channel 2, served as master of ceremonies.

"I wish the world was full of these kinds of girls. They were all fantastic," said judge Timothy Buskey. Buskey, one of three judges given the difficult task of selecting a winner, is area director of programs and policy for the American Farm Bureau Federation. Other judges were Michele Awad, Ag in the Classroom coordinator for Virginia Farm Bureau Federation, and Alison Cowan, director of field services for the Pennsylvania Farm Bureau.

Lori Evans lives on her family's 750-acre cattle farm in Maryland's westernmost county. The

family has a 65-head black angus breed cow herd, 36 mixed breed sheep, 7 landrace pigs, and 26 chickens. They grow corn, oats, and hay on the farm, and have 140 acres of pasture. Gary's brother Richard is a partner in the Evans Farms operation.

In addition to her daily chores of feeding animals and cleaning pig pens, the farmer's daughter helps wherever she is needed. She rakes and bales hay, assists with calving and at lambing time, and cleans buildings.

The 17-year-old is a senior at Southern High School, where she is an honor roll student. She plays volleyball and is a member of the National Honor Society. An 8-year member of the Red House 4-H Club, Lori is currently club secretary. This year she took a pig, a steer, and a lamb to the county fair.

"The money from my animals at the fair goes toward my college education," said the future mathematician.

John Butler of Maryland Farm Bureau coordinated the contest. The contest committee consisted of Holly Fleming, chairman, and



The Queen and her court, from left: Rebecca Johnson from St. Mary's County, Bobbie Jo Eaton from Caroline County, Farm Queen Lori Evans, Autumn "Dee" Guyton from Frederick County, and Katrina Fischer from Harford County. The young ladies will serve as ambassadors for agriculture during the State Fair.

members Fay Baase, Mary Teter, Dorris Harris, and Laura Kamin-ski. Cora Widdowson, Chairman for MFB women, oversees the contest.

## Rural White Teens Face Early Pregnancies

Washington, D.C. — Rural white teens are more likely to get pregnant than their urban white counterparts, but less likely than black urban teens, according to a Penn State study of rural American women.

The study also shows that rural white teens are more prone to marry early compared to either black or white urban adolescents, said Dr. Gretchen T. Cornwell, assistant professor of rural sociology and a research associate with the University's Population Research Institute.

"Our research indicates the large impact of residence and race

on early family formation, especially in the case of premarital births," says Melonie Heron, graduate student in sociology and demography and an affiliate with the Population Research Institute.

Indeed, the study shows that black and white female adolescents living in rural areas are four or five times more likely to have a baby before marriage than urban white teenagers.

"We examined other variables such as school performance, work activity, dating behavior and

household size and income," Cornwell notes. "Even when we take those into account, race and place of residence clearly play an important role in family formation among black and white adolescent women."

"It is well known that children born to young mothers are among those most vulnerable to poverty," Heron adds. "This study demonstrates to what degree this is a rural as well as an urban problem."

Cornwell and Heron presented the paper, "Social Origins and

Social Institutions in the Transition to Adulthood of Rural American Women," (Aug. 20) at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Washington, D.C.

Data for this study was taken from 1987-88 and 1992-93 figures from the National Survey of Families and Households. The Penn State researchers based their analysis on the experiences of 420 young women between the ages of 12 and 18 at the time of the first survey.

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