



Selecting the dairy princess is no easy job for the four judges shown with Master of Ceremonies Grover Gouker, seated at right. Seated at right is Betty Emerling, a dairy farm wife and mother of a former New York dairy princess. Standing from left are Susan Crowell, Ohio; Jason Devlino, Vermont; and Dr. J. Lee Majeskie, Maryland.



Escorting retiring Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Natalie Welch is her father David Welch, a veterinarian in Somerset County.



One is never too young to dream. Five-year-old Sarah Welmer watches the pageant festivities with her mother Cindy Neely Welmer, who was state dairy princess in 1980.



Royalty from surrounding states join the newly crowned Pennsylvania Dairy Princess on stage. From left is New York State Dairy Princess Janell Smith, Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Rhonda Kieklak, Maryland Dairy Princess Christina Harper, and Maryland Eastern Shore Dairy Princess Julie Edwards.

State Dairy Pageant

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She expounded on that belief by saying that there is a need to keep high moral standards.

First Alternate Heather said that her parents told her that with hard work and responsibility, you can go for your dreams and not let fear get in the way.

Second Alternate Yvonne credited the best advice she ever received to Wanda Yoder, co-chairperson for the central district for PDPPS, who advised the contestants to throw their hearts over the obstacle that they feared and their bodies would follow. It was advice that Yvonne said that she applied as a contestant and became a finalist as a result.

Melanie Snyder said that her mother taught her to always follow your dreams, no matter what. "If you reach for the sky and fall, it doesn't matter. Work as hard as you can and you will succeed." Melanie is the daughter of Jack and Donna Snyder, who farm 500 acres with 300 Holsteins and sheep.

Beth Marshall, daughter of Curtis and Ruth Marshall, said she was given the same advice from family and friends and that was to always be yourself.

Jodi Colton, daughter of Debbie and Daniel Colton, said that her father always taught her to live each day to the fullest and to do something above her ability.

Tracy Lynn Post, daughter of Jack and Pamela Post, said that her best friend's gave her the best advice and that was to be herself and have fun.

Two persons received awards for the most outstanding presentations. In addition to Rhonda, Franklin County Dairy Princess Anne Main, daughter of Monie and Liza Main, gave her award-winning presentation before the audience.

Rhonda, dressed as a cheerleader, demonstrated her many talents by leading a cheer for milk, portraying an actress auditioning for a milk commercial, singing a commercial promoting milk, and ending with a catchy rap in support of milk.

Anne Main dressed as a milk drop, pulled dairy products from

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Robin Kieklak is the mother of the new state dairy princess, Rhonda Joy. Because her dad Richard is committed to his cows, he was unable to make the trip from Erie County to attend the pageant in Harrisburg.



Speech-award winners are Clarion-Venango Dairy Princess Melanie Kay Snyder and Erie County Dairy Princess Rhonda Joy Kieklak, who became the state dairy princess.



For one year, Jan Harding becomes "mom" to the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess as she travels across the state, fulfilling promotional duties for the dairy industry.