

Kelly West Captures New York Dairy Princess Crown

SYRACUSE, N.Y.—Kelly West from Varysburg, New York was crowned the 1996-1997 New York State Dairy Princess on February 20, at the Four Points Hotel by Sheraton, Liverpool, New York. Having served almost 10 months as the Wyoming County Dairy Princess, West will devote an additional year promoting milk and dairy products, in conjunction with the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council, Inc. (ADADC). As state princess, she received a \$1,200 scholarship, and will relinquish her country responsibilities. Sponsored by ADADC, the 33rd annual coronation completed the year-long reign of Jonelle Smith of Cincinnati.

West received \$150 for her award-winning school presentation called "Real Seal City" that she presented to more than 400 people at the pageant. She was also recognized for her honorable mention scrapbook. The 18-year-old daughter of Alan and Suzanne, West lives on a fourth generation, family-owned dairy farm, where her responsibilities include feeding cows, record-keeping, and helping with the breeding program. An active 4-H and Junior Holstein member, West enjoys exhibiting Holsteins in county, regional, state, and national shows. A senior at Attica Central School, Kelly is active in Student Council, Ski Club, Varsity Track, Band, and French Club. This fall, she plans to attend SUNY Morrisville to pursue a career in veterinary medicine.

Jenny Kelsey of Canastota, New York, in Madison County was named first Alternate State Princess. She received a \$700 scholarship and \$75 for her award-winning scrapbook. She was also recognized for her honorable mention speech presentation. Kelsey is the 16-year-old daughter of Maurice and Amy, who farm 1,200 acres and milk 170 registered Holsteins. An active 4-H and Junior Holstein member, she has represented New York State on four national dairy bowl teams, and has been a Distinguished Junior Member for seven years. Upon graduation, Kelsey plans to pursue a career in agriculture after attending Cornell University and majoring in animal science and

agricultural communications.

Kirsten Rowe of Earlville, New York, in Chenango County was selected as second Alternate State Princess. She received a \$600 scholarship, \$150 for her award-winning school presentation called "Super Milk," and \$75 for her award-winning scrapbook. Rowe lives on a 480-acre dairy farm owned by Leigh and Sue Manley. Earlier this year, Rowe enjoyed working on the production of her educational documentary entitled, "Real People, Real Lives, a Documentary on Osteoporosis." She is an active member of Heifer Project International, a group dedicated to improving nutrition through milk and other dairy products in the United States and around the world. Rowe will attend Cornell University to study Agricultural Business Economics in the fall to pursue a career in Agricultural Communications.

Both alternate princesses will represent ADADC at county dairy princess pageants, will help train new county promoters at seminars and workshops, and will assist the state princess with various appearances throughout the state. Other finalists were Heather Edmunds of Delavan, New York, in Cattaraugus County; Kristie Bancroft of Dansville, New York, in Livingston County; Elizabeth Kalbfliesh of Melrose, New York, in Rensselaer County; and Kara Boisvenue of Fort Ann, New York, in Washington County.

Twenty-six county dairy princesses competed in the state pageant, including a personal interview, a 10-minute speech presentation, and informal interaction with others. The two-part speech presentation consisted of a speech geared for adults, and a presentation appropriate for elementary school students.

Judges evaluated the contestants on their communication skills, knowledge of the dairy industry, poise, personality, and appearance.

Overall judges were Jim Barnett, assistant secretary and manager of member relations for Atlantic Dairy Cooperative from Southampton, Pa.; Melinda Johnson, owner of Hem-View Holsteins and a fashion image consultant from Warren, Pa.; and Jerry Reed, executive director of the New



From left are Rick Naczi, ADADC CEO, Kirsten Rowe, Kelly West, Jenny Kelsey, and Raymond Johnson, ADADC board president.



Finalists at the pageant are front row from left, K. Boisvenue, E. Kalbfliesh, and K. Bancroft. Back row from left are K. Rowe, K. West, J. Kelsey, and H. Edmunds.

York Beef Industry Council from Westmoreland, N.Y.

In addition to West and Rowe, Andrea Shelley of Spencerport, New York, in Monroe County received \$150 for her award-winning speech entitled "Calcium — Is It Really That Important?" In addition to Kelsey, honorable mention speech presentations were Michele Schaefer of Deposit, New York, in Delaware County;

Elizabeth Kalbfliesh of Melrose, New York, in Rensselaer County; Rebecca Smith of Cobleskill, New York, in Schoharie County; and Molly Zorn of Owego, New York, in Tioga County.

Judges evaluated each 10-minute presentation on contest, speaking ability, and appearance. Speech judges were Jennifer Emerling, 1994-95 New York

State Dairy Princess from Perry, N.Y.; Mark Kenville, director of member relations and communications for Dairylea Cooperative from Syracuse, NY; and Arlene Wilbur, mother of a former Pennsylvania Dairy Princess, and board member of her local dairy promotion committee from LeRaysville, Pa.

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Miss Congeniality Kristie Bancroft



As one of three speech winners, Kelly West performs her skit, "Real Seal City" to more than 400 persons who attended the banquet.



New York State Dairy Princess Kelly West is congratulated by retiring state dairy princess Jonelle Smith, left.