

# Hundreds Gather For Dairy Princess Celebration Tonight

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Long after many of the dairy princesses relinquish their crowns they continue to promote milk among family, friends, and coworkers.

Deb Miller Brubaker is a prime example of how her involvement in dairy promotion continues to spread to others. Brubaker was a Dauphin County dairy princess who went on to capture the state crown in 1974.

Her mother, Pat Miller, who chaperoned her daughter to functions around the state, became excited about dairy promotion. After her daughter's reign ended, Miller continued as district dairy princess coordinator and served on the PDPPS board for 15 years.

During these years, Deb married a dairy farmer and moved to Lancaster County where they farm 250 acres and milk 130 cows. She and her husband Lowell have three daughters, who have become active in dairy promotion. Daughter Heather, 15, is a dairy ambassador for Lancaster County, and several of her daughters served as dairy darlings for the county.

In fact, Miller said that she now has six granddaughters involved somehow in dairy promotion in Lancaster and Dauphin counties.

Becky Sonnen Bube is another example of how the dairy princess program influenced her life. From Lebanon County, she became the state dairy princess in 1987. Now she is program director for Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing Association.

Sonnen said, "Being a dairy

princess opened my eyes to different aspects of the dairy industry. Before I knew the hands on work, but I became acquainted with the behind the scenes work of promoting. Next to being married, becoming dairy princess was the best thing that ever happened to me. It helped me get my job and prepared me for working."

In 1981, Charlene Rohrer was crowned dairy princess. Now she is married to Merle Ranck and has three sons, but her involvement with the dairy industry has not slowed down.

After serving on the dairy promotion committee in Chester County for 10 years, Ranck was named PDPPS secretary and coordinator for the Southeast district.

"The skills learned as dairy princess helped me to relate to people in a more professional way," she said.

Ranck helps to train and prepare county princesses in dairy promotion and for the pageant.

At tonight's pageant, Angela Werley, Berks County dairy princess, will compete for the state crown. The Werley family became involved in the dairy princess program when Angela's younger sister was crowned the Berks County Little Miss in 1989.

In addition to working on her family's Hamburg dairy farm, Angela was a county milk ambassador until she was crowned dairy princess. Her mother Donna (father is Philip) is chairperson for the county promotion committee. The Werleys were named Berks County Farm Family of the Year



Former state directors for PDPPS, back row from left, are Judy Diebold, Bev Robinson Minor, Rita Kennedy, and Jan Harding. Front row from left, are Pat Miller, Joanne Pelfer, and Mlm Kauffman.

recently.

Watching from the sidelines will be Kelly Rohrbach, daughter of Alan and Beth Rohrbach of Showmakersville and the Berks County Li'l Miss. It's the pageant where dreams are birthed. Kelly and other young girls her age idolize the grown-up princesses, and they can hardly wait until they are

big enough to wear a "real crown."

From its small beginnings in 1956 when the Miss Milk Maid contest was initiated by the Pennsylvania Association of Milk Dealers until the present with 31 county dairy princesses, the purpose of the program is to sell more milk products.

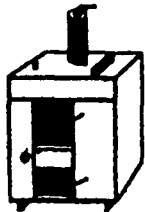
The dairy princess program is

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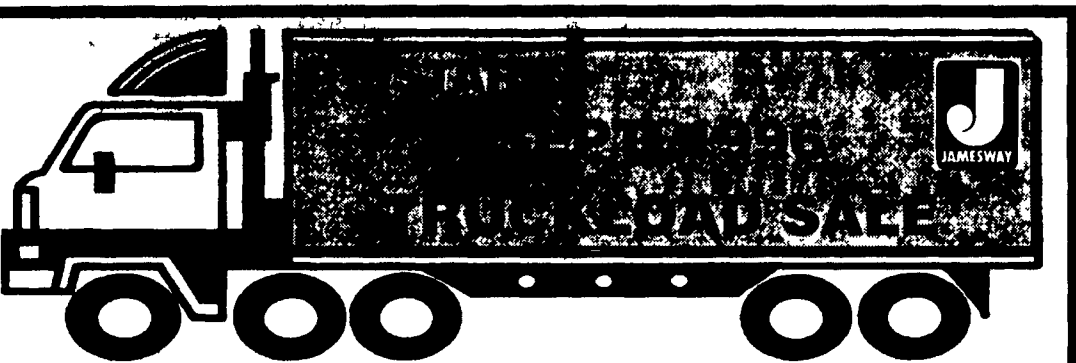
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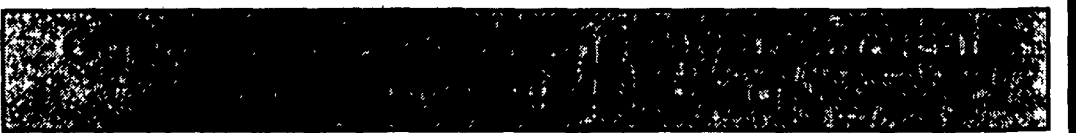
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