

Alison Littlefield Is New York State Dairy Princess

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Alison Littlefield from Watertown, N.Y., was crowned the 1997-1998 New York State Dairy Princess on February 18, at the Four Points Hotel by Sheraton, Liverpool, N.Y. Having served eight months as the Jefferson County Dairy Princess, Littlefield 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, Littlefield received a \$1,200 scholarship and will represent ADADC at county dairy princess pageants, farm meetings, and a variety of special events. In addition, she will help train new county promoters at seminars and workshops.

Littlefield received \$150 for her award-winning school presentation and \$75 for being recognized as one of three scrapbook winners. Teaching children about their need for milk and dairy products, the school presentation was called "got milk?", and was presented to more than 400 people at the pageant. The 21-year-old daughter of Clarence and Sharon Littlefield, Alison grew up on a 50-cow Guernsey farm with her two older sisters.

She is a past president of the NYS Jr. Guernsey Association and was the 1995 NYS Guernsey Princess, a 10-year member of 4-H, Alison was named a NYS Dairy Food winner and delegate to the National 4-H Congress. Alison graduated from SUNY Potsdam last December with a dual degree in speech communication and elementary education. She has taught students in England and is currently a substitute teacher in Watertown.

Melissa Osgood of Bliss, N.Y., in Wyoming County was named First Alternate State Princess. She received a \$700 scholarship and \$150 for being named a speech winner for her school program "The Moo-ville Real Seal Olympics," which talks about the importance of dairy products and the REAL Seal. She was also recognized for her honorable mention scrapbook. Osgood is the 16-year-old daughter of Dan and Pam Osgood. She is a junior at Pioneer



Twenty-one-year-old Alison Littlefield, of Watertown, is crowned the 1997-98 New York State Dairy Princess by retiring dairy princess Kelly West. Alternates Lois Lewis from Cattaraugus County (left) and Melissa Osgood from Wyoming County (right) look on.

High School, active in volleyball and chorus. Osgood is active in 4-H, receiving many awards in public speaking, agriculture, and citizenship. She is also a Sunday School teacher and volunteers as a candy striper at her local hospital.

Lois Lewis of Great Valley, N.Y., in Cattaraugus County was selected as Second Alternate State Princess. She received a \$600 scholarship and is the 16-year-old daughter of Adrian and Nancy Lewis.

She is a home-schooled senior and plans to study cosmetology at the Continental School of Beauty in the fall. Lewis' interests for the dairy industry developed from working with her neighbors on their 300-acre dairy farm.

Like the state princess, 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 included Britney O'Connor, Chateaugay, N.Y., Tina Ratulowski, Bergen, N.Y., Lee Ann Schwope, Pine Bush, N.Y. and Amy Swezey, Fort Ann, N.Y.

Thirty county dairy princesses competed in the state pageant, vying for the title relinquished by reigning princess Kelly West from

Varysburg, N.Y. The judges were looking for the young women who most effectively promote milk and dairy products, based on a personal interview, two adult speeches, (impromptu and prepared), elementary school presentation, and informal interaction with others. Judges evaluated the contestants on their communication skills, knowledge of milk and dairy products, poise, and personality. Overall judges were Melinda

Johnson, owner of Hem-View Holsteins and fashion image consultant from Warren, Pa.; Randall Sawyer, public information officer with the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets in Albany, N.Y.; and Rebecca Sonnen, program director for the Middle Atlantic Milk Marketing Association in Towson, Md.

In addition to Littlefield and Osgood, Nichol Merrill of Seneca Falls, N.Y., in Seneca County, received \$150 for her award-winning speech entitled "Only You," an adult speech about the importance of calcium from dairy products. Honorable mention speech presentations were given to Tina Ratulowski, Bergen, N.Y., Katie Cody, Cazenovia, N.Y., Jessica Brock, Melrose, N.Y., Rose Howland, Candor, N.Y., and Amy Swezey, Fort Ann, N.Y.

Judges evaluated each 10-minute presentation on content, speaking ability, and appearance. Speech judges were Bruce Button, general manager of Lee Publications, Inc. in Palatine Bridge, N.Y.; Jonelle Smith, 1995-96 New York State Dairy Princess from Cincinnatus, N.Y.; and Arlene Wilbur, assistant program director for the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services, Inc. from LeRaysville, Pa.

Each contestant created a dairy promotion scrapbook for competition. In addition to Littlefield, Valcia holden of Springwater, N.Y., in Livingston County, and Jana Schenck of Greenwood, N.Y., in Steuben County were awarded \$75 for their award-winning scrapbooks. In addition to Osgood, honorable mention scrapbooks were Jennifer Mothar of Tully, N.Y., in Onondaga County;

(Turn to Page B5)



Alison Littlefield Performs her Award-Winning School Presentation at the New York State Dairy Princess Pageant



Seven finalists for the 1997-98 New York State Dairy Princess Pageant from left are First Row: Lois Lewis, New York State Second Alternate Dairy Princess from Cattaraugus County; Alison Littlefield, New York State Dairy Princess from Jefferson County; Melissa Osgood, New York State First Alternate Dairy Princess from Wyoming County. Second Row: Lee Ann Schwope, from Orange County; Britney O'Connor, from Franklin County; Amy Swezey, from Washington County; and Tina Ratulowski, from Genesee County.

HOMESTEAD NOTES