

Finnicle Is Lebanon Dairy Princess



The transition court of Lebanon County's Dairy Promotion Committee's dairy royalty includes, from the left, 1998 Dairy Maid Laura Blanch, Li'l Miss Royell Bashore; and 1998 Princess Heidi Finnicle; 1997 Dairy Princess Andrea Bashore, Li'l Miss Lauren Williams, and Amy Habecker.

VERNON ACHENBACH JR.
Lancaster Farming Staff
LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — The Lebanon County Dairy Promotion Committee selected its slate of 1998 dairy promotion royalty June 13 at the Lebanon County Career and Technology Center in Lebanon.

Selected to represent the county as its princess was Heidi Finnicle, 19, daughter of Stanley and Donna Finnicle, of Palmyra.

A 1997 graduate of Palmyra Area High School, she is a student at Penn State where she is pursuing studies in dairy and animal science with plans to pursue veterinary studies.

She is employed by J&E Farm, where her duties include helping to

milk, feed, and harvest crops. During her presentation, she pretended to be a newscaster and talked about the nutrition of milk. Elvin Gingrich served as host of the presentation, and asked the contestants several questions, including, "What do you hope to gain, personally, as dairy princess (or maid, etc., as was appropriate)?"

In addition to hoping to gain better poise and presence in public as a spokesperson for the dairy industry, she said she hoped to get to meet more people, especially dairy farmers, and to learn more about the industry.

Though Finnicle was the lone contestant, she still had to measure up to the judge's standards. The promotion position of "princess" doesn't necessarily have to be filled, if there are no suitable contestants.

Other royalty selected included Laura Blanch, 13, daughter of Eric and Connie Blanch, of Annville, whose parents operate a Holstein dairy farm.

Blanch said that being a dairy maid is something she always wanted to do. She is a member of the NoSoAnn 4-H Dairy Club, and the North Mountain 4-H Club. In school she is involved in the band and chorus.

Royell Bashore, 5, daughter of Robert and Sherry Bashore of Annville, was named Lebanon County Li'l Miss.

Royell's parents both work on dairy farms, and Royell gets to go along to work and help her parents get ready for milking, tending calves and even milking some of the tame cows.

The outgoing court included Dairy Princess Andrea Bashore, Dairy Maid Amy Habecker, Dairy Maid Rachel Krall, and Li'l Miss Lauren Williams.

In recollecting their experiences during the past year, they talked about the closeness that developed as they worked together at promotions, and the fun they were able to have while supporting each others' enthusiasm for the promotions, most of them in schools.

Andrea's older sister, Jennifer Bashore, a past princess, served as pageant chairperson. In addition, other members of the committee included Annette Buck co-chairperson and booking chairperson; Roberta Bashore (mother of Jennifer and Andrea), co-chairperson and treasurer; Norma Bausler, secretary; and members Terry Shucy and Alisha Myers (both former princesses).

An ice cream social followed the program, with volunteers helping to setup, serve and clean up.

Jennifer Bashore also made a request that anyone interested in volunteering effort and time to help promote the dairy industry should please talk to anyone on the committee.

According to records of the royalty presentations made last year, the princess did 25 school programs, 3 newspaper interviews; six radio promotions, five store/mall promotions; 11 non-farm promotions; seven state programs; seven farm meetings; and two special events.

She was accompanied by one or all of the rest of the court on most occasions.

As a goodbye presentation, Bashore and Habecker performed a skit about the "does and don'ts of being a dairy princess." Without patronizing, and using humor, the skit emphasized the preparedness, responsibility, courtesy and work habits that are necessary in order to do a good job and to work well with others.

The Lebanon County Holstein Club donated gifts to the outgoing royalty, while Bernard Morrissey Insurance donated a gift to the new princess, and Balsbaugh Insurance donated a 35 mm camera.

Dairy farmers Tom and Shirley Krall of Rexmont, who frequently serve as host for school tours on the dairy farm, were specifically recognized for helping the country promotion program by storing the dairy barn at their farm.

Jeremy Balsbaugh served as pianist.



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