

Laura Peachey Wears Mifflin County Crown

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— With pre-pageant jitters barely showing, Laura Peachey of Belleville smiled for photographers for the first time in a year's worth of dairy princess publicity photos. Laura, the only contestant, accepted the title at the Mifflin County Dairy Princess Pageant held last week in conjunction with the Mifflin County Holstein Club picnic.

Rain forced the event indoors at the Belleville Mennonite School but failed to dampen the crowd's enthusiasm for a good meal, for socializing with friends and neighbors, and for supporting the dairy industry. By the

end of the evening, Laura was wearing her new tiara and sash, former dairy princesses were saying good-bye after another successful reunion, and folks were gathering their purchases from the dairy promotion benefit auction.

Sixteen-year-old Laura Peachey is not a stranger to farm life. She rolls out of bed at 4:30 in the morning to help her father milk the family's Hostein herd before going to school. How many cows are milked that early in the morning?

"Too many! Laura replies with a wide grin and a sparkle in her eyes.

Laura is the daughter of Sheldon and Barbara Peachey.



Former Mifflin County Dairy Princesses gather for a reunion. Seated from left are Erica Rhodes and her mother Donna (McKee) Rhodes, Susan Fisher Stringer, Diane Yoder, and Mandy Stewart. Standing are Jaylene Yoder Hess who is holding her daughter Jalesha, Marlene Smith, and Amanda Cleck, standing in for her mother, Patricia Cleck.

She has shown dairy animals for more than six years as a member of the Mifflin County 4-H Dairy Club. She attends the Belleville Mennonite School and is active in the concert choir and basketball team. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and spending time with her family and friends.

Much of her spare time now will be spent promoting the use of dairy products. Her predecessor, Marlene Smith of Belleville, conducted 80 school visits, 21 radio spots, and 58 newspaper reports. In spite of what sounds like more work, Laura's looking forward to her year as dairy princess.

"I've always had fun helping the dairy princesses in the past. I enjoy people," Laura says, whose family milks 85 Holsteins.

Laura received good advice

from several former dairy princesses that evening. They were invited to the pageant for a reunion. Susan (Fisher) Stringer, Donna (McKee) Rhodes, Judy (Sunderland) Goss, Jaylene (Yoder) Hess, and Diane Yoder met before dinner to reminisce.

"I remember riding in the Halloween Parade in Lewistown, when I heard one child say, 'Here comes Miss America!'" Donna McKee said with a laugh.

Donna believes serving as dairy princess from 1980 to 1981 helped her become more confident with public speaking and with communicating in general. She is an author of two children's books and is an ordained pastor of nurture at Juniata College's Stone Church in Huntingdon.

As dairy princess from 1986 to 1987, Susan Stringer present-

ed her milk message to children throughout the school district. She is now a substitute elementary and day care teacher. "Being a dairy princess pushed me into knowing that I wanted to be a teacher. We did so many school demonstrations."

Jaylene Hess said that being a dairy princess from 1988 to 1989 helped confirm what she already suspected—that she wanted the dairy industry to be part of her future. Jaylene and her husband, John, dairy farm on his home farm near Gettysburg. She said, "I had a radio personality call me from Ohio. He wanted to know if cows eat their own dairy products. I played along, saying they were just mooing for more!"

Diane Yoder, a dairy princess in Bucks County from 1993 to 1994 and in Mifflin County from 1995 to 1996, said she gained more confidence in speaking in front of groups. She now sells advertising for WCHX and Star Country in Burnham.

Former dairy princess Judy Goss encouraged her daughters to become dairy princesses. Erin Goss served as dairy princess from 1994 to 1995 while Megan Goss just completed her year as alternate dairy princess.

The evening program began with a welcome by Beth Laughlin, chairperson of the dairy princess committee. Victor Yoder, president of the Mifflin County Holstein Club, served as master of ceremony.

Laura presented a skit and speech, which she'll present again during the state competition. Marlene Smith gave her farewell speech. Also introduced were Dairy Maids Candace Glick, Alisha Glick, and Valerie Kanagy; Dairy Misses Jackie Byler, Jena Kauffman, Kristi Sellers, Anna Smith, Virginia Smith, Lisa Yoder, and Lauren Yoder; and Lil Misses, Arika Snyder, Tonya Peachey, and Katherine Laughlin. An auction concluded the evening's activities.



Mifflin County's new Dairy Princess, Laura Peachey, will be spreading the word that dairy products are essential for good health. She recently accepted her crown from outgoing princess Marlene Smith at the pageant and Holstein Club picnic.

You Ask, You Answer

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QUESTION — Ivan Gromling, Manchester, writes that when he was young and growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, his family used Troutaman's Cough Syrup, which was black in color. Where can he purchase it today?

QUESTION — Mary Pazzaglia, Columbia Cross Roads, wants addresses for suppliers for chipwood baskets that measure 4½ -inch wide and 3¼ -inch deep, and 2½ -inches high.

QUESTION — Terry Lowe, New Park, is hoping to purchase wood or coal grates for a Wincroft #B8882R cookstove, made in Middletown.

QUESTION — Evan Weidman, Westfield, would like information about old cookers that he has. On top, it says American Cooker, patented Nov. 29, 1910, other patents pending, No. 70. the other one says the same thing but has a No. 66 on it. He'd like to know who made them and any other instructions.

ANSWER — Ruth Erb, Beavertown, wanted to know how to use Borax or Sulphur candles to kill termites or carpenter ants. Or any natural way not using chemical pesticides since she is allergic to them. Thanks to Joyce Grim, Revere, who writes that her family uses equal parts of confectioners' sugar and Borax and spreads it on the outside of their cabin in the mountain. It works, she wrote.

ANSWER — Another reader has 200 new egg cartons for the person who wanted them. Call him at Landenberg (610) 255-4627.

ANSWER — Clarence Rhorback, Mertztown, wanted to know where to get information on a miniature baler that makes 2x2x4-inch bales. Thanks to John M. Stoltzfus for writing that Joel Z. Zook makes them. Write to him at Gap Rd., Kinzer, PA 17535.

ANSWER — Marj Swartz wanted to know where to buy sheets of beeswax for rolling into candles. Pat Sweetman of Stone Haus Herbes, Stewartstown, recommends a mail order catalog Mid-Con, 1465 N. Winchester, Olathe, KS 66061-5881. Call 1-800-547-1392.

ANSWER — Kenneth McBeth, Walnut Bottom, wanted a pair of W.W.II inf. combat boots with leather tops and two straps. Thanks to Raymond Engblom, Clarksboro, N.J., who writes that 17 different styles of historic boots, which are authentic reproductions, custom made, and guaranteed to fit, are available from a mail order catalog. For the catalog, send \$2 plus a self-addressed stamped envelope to Cavalry Regimental Supply, Box 64394, Dept. MVM, Lubbock, TX 79464.

ANSWER — For Grace Pierce, Palmyra, who wanted the words and music to "Abide With Me," several answers were received. We do not have the space to print the words and music, but you can receive it by sending your name and address to D. Treese, 663 Little Britain Rd. N., Quarryville, PA 17566-9686. Pastor Philip Smith writes that the hymn is still in print and available from church supply stores. It appears on page 576 of the Service Book and Hymnal (SBH) of the Lutheran Church of America.

ATTENTION READERS: Some readers send information to us to forward to the person requesting information. We cannot forward information. We do not have the time and staff to do so. Some asked why we don't include the complete name and address with each request so that readers can write directly to the person. The answer is that this column was developed to have the answers printed so that all readers can benefit from the information. We do want to help whenever possible, and for that reason, sometimes include complete addresses if the request requires a mailing address. This is at the editor's discretion and we realize that some may disagree with this policy.

