

# Maryland Dairy Weekend Is Udderly Awesome

**KAREN BUTLER**

**Maryland Correspondent**

JEFFERSON, Md - The Maryland Dairy Youth Weekend provided an "Udderly Awesome" opportunity for young people from both farming and non-farming backgrounds to learn about the dairy industry in an enjoyable, non-competitive atmosphere. Ninety-five dairy 4-H'ers attended the weekend adventure, billed as "An Udderly Awesome Adventure", held at the 4-H camp center here

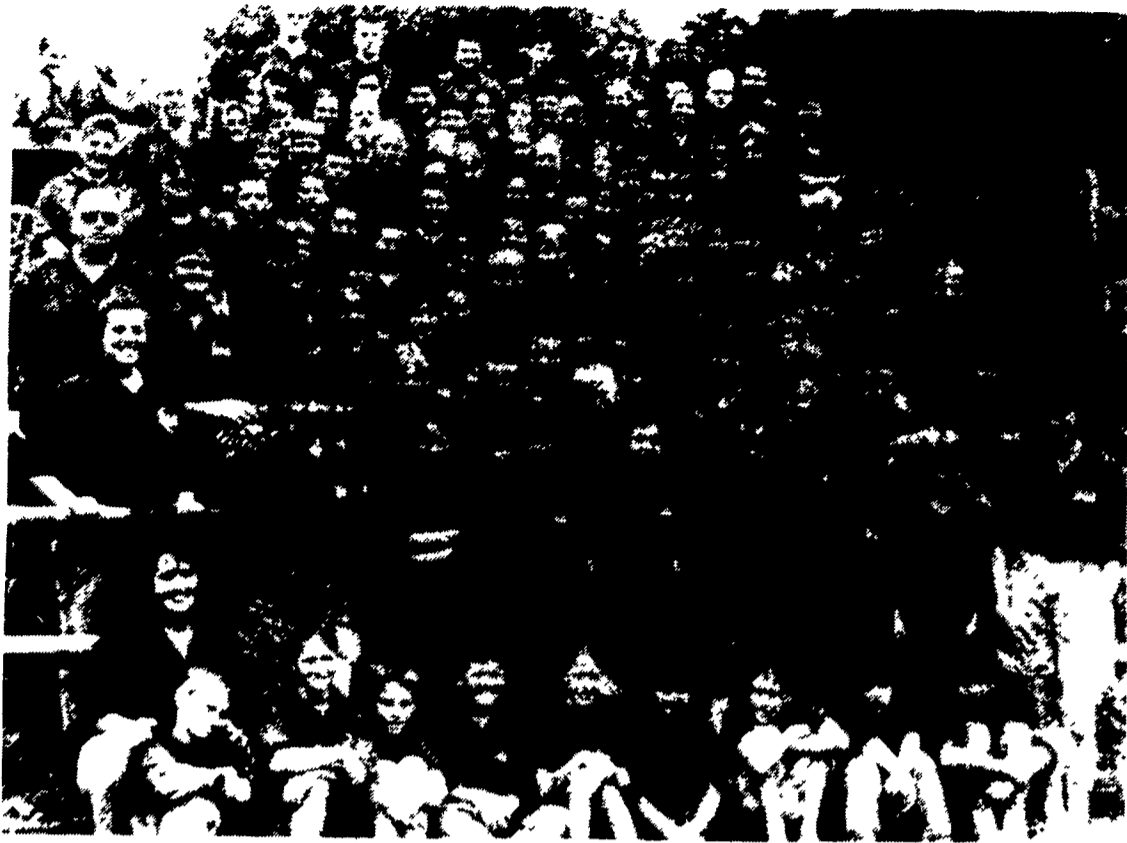
Now in its fifth year, the dairy weekend was coordinated by volunteers Susan Summers and Becky Long Chaney, former Frederick County 4-H'ers who have both gone on to awarded-winning careers as ag journalists and editors at the Frederick News-Post. As the eyes and ears of Frederick County agriculture, the two friends saw a need for a program tailored to youth interested in the dairy industry that stressed education.

"We felt lucky with the background we had, and we saw a need of young people who might not have that background," explained Summers. Even though Frederick is the largest dairy county in the state, some young people in 4-H interested in dairy projects don't actually live on a dairy farm. Some keep animals on a nearby farm, and others lease animals through

the state's dairy leasing program. The dairy weekend provides an educational forum with top-notch speakers and hands-on activities that benefits all the youth, whether they come from a farming background or not.

Part of what made the weekend so fun was the non-competitive environment of the program. Often when dairy youth get together, it is to compete, either in the showing or in some other contest. The dairy weekend deliberately shifts the emphasis away from competing and focuses instead on fun and fellowship. "We thought it would be great to stress the non-competitive aspects," said Long Chaney.

In fact there was only one contest during the weekend, a junior dairyman's contest led by Dr. Lee Majeskie from the University of Maryland. The rest of the activities consisted of talks and workshops. David Hill, Alta Genetics, spoke to the group on dairy genetics. Denny Remsburg, general manager for DHIA, led a mock sale, guiding the young people in their decision making to improve their pretend herds. A series of round-robin workshops featured "Dairy Products," "Cows From Head to Tail," "Milk Glue," "Dairy First Aid," "Milk Promotion," and "Showmanship." And of course, there was time to play, the pizza party, dance, and movie night



Ninety-five young people from around the state came to the 4-H camp center in Jefferson for the Maryland Dairy Youth Weekend. They took a break from the action to pose for this group picture just before lunch.

were all very popular.

More than 75 sponsors contributed to the program, and about 25 volunteers gave their time to make it such a success. "When you do a program like this I think it snowballs, and

everyone is eager to get involved," said Susan Summers. And as a way to practice their letter-writing skills, each and every sponsor will receive a hand-written thank-you card from a young person.

## 'Super Moo' Reigns In Somerset County

**GAY BROWNLEE**

**Somerset Co. Correspondent**

BERLIN (Somerset Co.) - When she is "Super Moo," Melissa Powell, the new Somerset County Dairy Princess will do her dairy best to save the world from bones that are brittle and teeth that are rotting because calcium in sufficient amounts is not reaching them.

It all starts with drinking milk and eating dairy products. So if taking flight in her Holstein-colored cap helps the humans who lack a proper sense of direction, then the 16-year daughter of Charles and Kimberly Powell, Meyersdale, will have reached her happy goal.

Beck Ray, the alternate dairy princess, is the daughter of Jim and Bonnie Ray of Somerset.

In a creaky rocking chair, she read a bedtime story "A Dairy Tale," about "Bovine" who had an evil stepmother named

"Mastitis."

She will be a senior at Somerset Area High School.

Powell, who succeeds Jessica Lynch in holding the title, will be a Junior in the Salisbury-Elk Lick District.

In answering a question that master of ceremonies Robert Brown, director of the Somerset Cooperative Extension office, asked about the biggest challenge facing the dairy industry today, Powell mentioned land availability.

She believes that cities and suburban areas are expanding to a point where the dairy industry is being squeezed.

One solution, she observed would be for people who want a house to find an existing one to remodel instead of taking valuable land on which to build something new.

Among the gifts presented to Powell was a \$1,000 scholarship for college, \$200 from the Allied

Milk Producers Cooperative (\$300 will follow next March if incentives are met), and \$100 Savings Bond from U.S. Bank.

Five dairy maids were recognized and participated in giving door prizes to numerous winners. The girls are Katie Stutzman, Nicole Powell, Rebekah Fox, Joy Tressler, and Jill Fox.

The Little Miss participants were Jill McWilliams, Rochell Gossman, Malorie Coddington, Brianna Trent, Melissa Paul, and Jennifer Martin.

Their escorts were Sam McWilliams, Jeremy Scheffel, Cayton Scheffel, Austin Coddington, Andrew Singo and Samuel Shober.

Judges for the event were June Bigelow from

Williamsport, Blair County; Jeff Calvert and Renee Calvert, spouses who are relocating to Berlin, Somerset County, from Fairmont, W.Va.

Members of the Dairy Pageant Committee are Angie Shober, chairperson; Christin Singo, Jenny Plummer, Amy Paul, Katie Shaulis, Kelly Bittner and Amanda Meier.

The Dairy Promotion Committee is composed of Dorothy Naugle, Nina Ferko, Gloria Kaufman, Jayne Piatt, Helen Mishler, Pat Saylor, Donna Martin, Charlene McWilliams, Barbara Brant, Shelly Walker, Sue Tressler, Sylvia Mast, Lisa Michael, Kim Powell, and Darlene Yoder.

An ice cream social followed the pageant held in the Berlin-Brothersvalley High School.



Susan Summers



Melissa Powell, right, the 1998 Somerset County dairy princess, is pictured with alternate Becky Ray.

## 4-H

### HAPPENINGS

The Susquehanna County 4-H Dairy Judging members have had a very good year thus far. The members have been practicing since the winter and have participated in a couple of contests. The county has a group of youth working on each side of the county and they occasionally get together for joint practices.

At the annual Penn State spring dairy judging contest, five individuals competed. In the senior 4-H division, the team of Andrea Garner, Justin Garner, and Jeremiah Fearnley placed seventh overall. A special highlight was a sixth place finish by Andrea Garner.

Ben Hoover and Matt Fearnley participated in the

junior division. Ben placed ninth in this contest.

More than 200 participants competed at this statewide event, including 54 junior 4-H members and 49 senior 4-H members.

The annual Delaware Valley College dairy judging contest was held on Saturday, April 18. Susquehanna County again had five 4-H members competing in this contest.

The lone senior member, Andrea Garner, placed first overall in the contest. Andrea was also fourth in reasons scoring.

Susquehanna County's junior team had a great day at Delaware Valley. They placed

first overall in the contest—a whole 26 points ahead of the second place team. Individual highlights for the juniors were, Ben Hoover, fourth; Katie Onyon, fifth; Jessie Sartell, tenth, and Justin Garner, fourteenth.

The 4-H Dairy Judging teams are now practicing for summer contests and the State 4-H Dairy Judging Contest to be held in August. Winners at the state contest will qualify for national contests at either Madison, WI, or Louisville, KY.

Any other youth who may be interested are encouraged to attend the practice sessions. Dairy judging is an excellent way to learn more about dairy cattle, public speaking, and working as a team.

Leaders for 4-H Dairy Judging for 1998 are Dave Castrogiovanni and Josh Harvatine. If you are interested, call one of these leaders or the Penn State Extension office in Montrose, (717) 278-1158 for more details.