

Clinton County Dairy Princess, An Outstanding 4-H'er, Vows To Serve State's Prominent Industry

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In front of 32 dairy princesses and alternates on stage, speaking to more than 400 representatives and family of the state's largest single agriculture industry, Jennifer Dotterer made one thing perfectly clear:

The state's dairy princesses, alternates, and those who meet people face to face to promote the state's dairy industry are not "slackers."

During the "concealed question" portion of the 42nd Annual Dairy Princess Coronation ceremonies last Saturday night, Dotterer, the new 1998-1999 state dairy princess, readily answered the question put forward by Master of Ceremonies Grover C. Gouker: "What do you believe is the one of the greatest challenges facing your generation today, and what role will you play in facing that

challenge?"

Dotterer, Clinton County dairy princess from Mill Hall, was pert: "I believe one of the greatest challenges we face is the older generation, who sometimes call us 'slackers,'" she said. "I will do my part to work my hardest . . . to promote the dairy industry."

When she was crowned by outgoing princess Nichole Meabon, Jennifer said, "I am feeling so many emotions now I don't know where to begin."

Jennifer, 19, is the daughter of Larry and Joyce Dotterer of Mill Hall. She works with her family, including two younger sisters, Amanda and Candice, on a 1,200-acre Clinton County Farm, where they milk 465 of the 525 Holsteins.

A sophomore studying dairy science at Delaware Valley College, Jennifer is a member of the Dairy Society, Block and Bridle Club, and Collegiate 4-H. A graduate of Bald Eagle-Nittany High School, Jennifer was a varsity cheerleader for wrestling and basketball and a member of the French, Spanish, yearbook, and environmental clubs.

Jennifer belongs to the Windy Acres and Horses Unlimited 4-H clubs, the dairy and livestock judging teams, and served as county ambassador in 1996, when she was selected as Outstanding 4-H'er.

Showing horses and pigs and dairy and livestock judging are listed as her interests.

The coronation ceremony at the Sheraton Inn East, Harrisburg, last Saturday evening capped a busy summer, when state dairy princesses competed for county titles. This year 29 of the 31 county dairy princesses, representing 36 counties, arrived at the Sheraton Hotel

Thursday evening and underwent two days of judging. Each princess was interviewed and underwent several meetings, presentations, speeches, and scrapbooks for review. Selection of seven finalists took a couple of days.

The seven finalists included Lacy Jean Zakostelecky, Crawford County dairy princess who was named first alternate, and second alternate Megan Meyers, Franklin County dairy princess. Finalists also included Amanda Sollenberger, 17, Blair County dairy princess and daughter of Gerald and Jean Sollenberger, Curryville; Lisa M. Heimbach, SUN Area princess and daughter of Robert and Vickie Heimbach, Mt. Pleasant Mills; Kristina Lea Baker, 16, Tioga County princess and daughter of William and Rebecca Baker, Covington; and Jessica Kathleen Bailor, 17, Juniata County dairy princess, Honey Grove.

Lacey, 16, is the daughter of Jeffrey and Laurie Zakostelecky, Springboro. A junior at Conneaut Valley High School, Lacey works on her family's Zak's Dairy Farm and owns 24 of the farm's 44 Brown Swiss. She is a member of the Brown Swiss Cattle Breeders Association and the Pennsylvania Brown Swiss Association. Lacey is president of the Conneaut Valley 4-H Club and vice president of the Conneaut Valley FFA. At the high school, she is a high honor student and a member of the yearbook and newspaper staffs, Students Against Drunk Driving (SADD) and Spanish Club, and plays softball and basketball.

Lacey has an older sister, Cheryl, and younger brother, Scott. She is a member of Conneautville Baptist Church and enjoys playing all sports, swimming, fishing, cross-country skiing, hiking, crafting, and collecting teddy bears, in addition to showing dairy cows.

During the concealed question portion of the contest, the master of ceremonies asked her what she thought the greatest challenge of her generation was and how she would face it herself. "I plan to maintain a good Christian background," said Lacey, "and tell them what I believe is right, what I prefer."

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Jennifer Dotterer, Mill Hall, is the new Pennsylvania dairy princess.



Scrapbook honors went to Megan Meyers, Franklin County princess, state alternate and Lacy Jean Zakostelecky, Crawford dairy princess, also state alternate.



Jennifer Dotterer, left, is congratulated as the new dairy princess by outgoing princess Nichole Meabon.



Miss Congeniality went to Lisa M. Heimbach, SUN Area dairy princess, Mt. Pleasant Mills.



Before the coronation ceremonies in Harrisburg last Saturday, dairy royalty provided milk punches. From left, Melanie Brockway, Beaver-Lawrence alternate; Terra Ferris, Mercer County alternate; and Kristen Morgan, Beaver-Lawrence dairy princess.