## **Dairy Princess**

(Continued from Page B3)

on the easel, the painting actually "spoke" to Megan about the benefits of milk and the importance of drinking 3-4 servings of milk a day. The mysterious voice described about eight milk products in various sized packages that are good for overall health.

Janet Harding, program director, Pennsylvania Dairy Princess

and Promotion Services, Inc (PDPPS), introduced the outgoing princess, Nichole R. Meabon, daughter of Paula and Randy Meabon, Erie County. She said that Nichole "Nicki" had become "number 14 of the daughters I have worked with as state princesses.

"When I say they become daughters, they really do," said Harding.

She spoke about the long hours and hard work, "busy gals at home, in school, and at their jobs.

"Nicki has represented our industry from Day One," said Harding.

Nichole, in her farewell presentation, spoke about her "incredible experience" as a state dairy princess. She told an audience about her exhaustive work through the entire year, about how "nothing can prepare you for that first moment when you go into the (Farm Show) Complex and you can't go anywhere," with so many

people coming to see you and "so many outrageously great things."

Nichole spoke about her orange and white with blue eyes cat "Guernsey" and about the long trips taken throughout the state, meeting the public, answering questions about the industry, and addressing school and civic groups. She said that everywhere Harding would drive, Nichole would simply "sleep" until they would arrive.

Throughout her farewell remarks, Nichole fought to hold back tears. Many of the contestants and many former dairy princess families in the room simply cried along with her.

Arlene Wilbur, associate program director, PDPPS, spoke about the Tina M. Shultz Memorial Award, an award presented in honor of the 1985-1986 Huntingdon County dairy princess who was willing to serve her industry while fighting a losing battle with cancer. Julie McConnell, Beaver-Lawrence dairy princess, was honored with the memorial award. Julie is the daughter of Jeff and

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Jennifer Dotterer, new state princess, right, was congratulated by Julie Kelsey, New York State dairy princess.



Seven finalists were selected last Saturday at the state dairy coronation at the Sheraton Inn Harrisburg. They 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. Helmbach, SUN Area princess and daughter of Robert and Vickle Helmbach, Mt. Pleasant Mills; Kristina Lea Baker, 16, Tioga County princess and daughter of William and Rebecca Baker, Covington; and Jessica Kathleen Ballor, 17, Juniata County dairy princess, Honey Grove.

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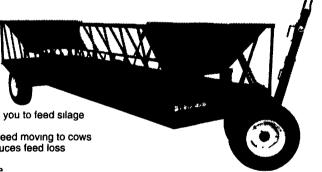
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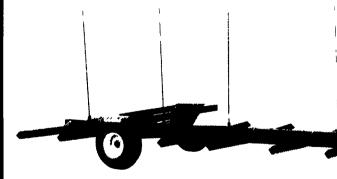
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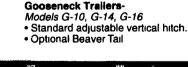


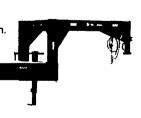
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