(Continued from Page A10)

learned will never leave my memory. I have been asked questions like "Are you really a Princess?" or "Do you live in a castle?" or "Why do I really need to drink milk?" But I think the worst is the all time really bad question "Does chocolate milk come from brown cows?"

At the beginning of my year of reign I wondered many times if I really knew what I was getting into. I was so busy, I wondered how would I ever fit this into my already busy schedule. Well it's almost over and I realize I will never regret being the dairy princess. It has been one of

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the most positive things in my life. I have met many new friends and will have many fond memories with me throughout my life. I have been given several different titles throughout the year like "Dairy Fairy," "Cow Queen" and "Dairy Queen" but I have always held my head high and remembered that not every girl is given the opportunity to be a dairy princess.

I would like to thank all the members of the Centre County Dairy Promotion Board for all their help and also I would like to extend a special thank you to Candy Wasson my coordinator for everything she helped me

accomplish. Thank you also to all my dairymaids, misses and ambassadors, without whom my life would have been lots more complicated. Next, I would like to extend lots of thanks to the dairy farmers throughout the state and especially in Centre County that made me feel like I belonged at every function that they invited me to. Thank you should also be extended to all the dairy cooperatives and businesses that invited me to their many banquets and picnics throughout the year. Also, I need to extend thanks to all the local businesses that were gracious enough to lend me cars or candy for parades and many opportunities to speak. Lastly, I would like to say thank you to all the members of the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services. Jan and Arlene, you actually do become almost like second mothers to all us dairy

princesses. They answer countless questions whenever we need answers. Also, a special thank you to Wanda Yoder. It seemed that whenever I would start to feel blue or overwhelmed a card of encouragement would arrive exactly at the right time.

Lastly, a big thank you to my family, throughout the year you have sacrificed many hours of time for me. Dad, a special thank you for driving me in parades and letting me ride on a milk truck for one of them. Will and Ashley, you helped me get everything ready to attend appearances and lastly I need to extend a special thank you to my mom. My mom is the one person who I feel should have a crown on top of her head. She would take the time to attend every function with me. She would help serve ice cream when needed; she would spend many hours helping me with my speeches and scrapbook and just be there whenever I needed her to be. I'm not sure I could have done everything that I accomplished without her help. Thank you again Mom.

I have had the time of my life this past year and I extend my best wishes to all the newly dairy crowned princesses throughout the state. Enjoy yourself, work hard and have a great year, you deserve it. I would like to congratulate Lori Connelly, the 1999/2000 Centre County Dairy Princess and her alternate Emily Cloninger. I hope you have a great year and remember I'll always be there if you need something.

Billie Jo Bird 1998/99 Centre County Dairy Princess

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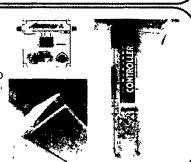
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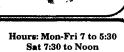
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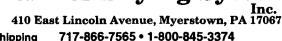
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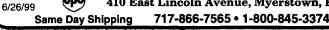
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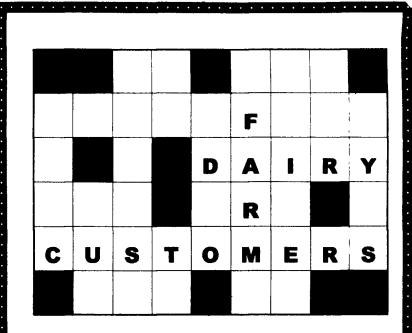


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