

Attend State Dairy Princess Pageant Sept. 18

On Being a Farm Wife (and other hazards)
Joyce Bupp



Like so many crops this season, the queen of vegetable gardens has been having a less-than-bumper year.

So much for winning any giant tomato contests this season.

According to numerous studies done in recent years, tomatoes are the number one crop cultivated by home gardeners. Even folks who don't grow any garden at all will often tuck a tomato stalk into a container and tend it on their back balcony.

Supermarket tomatoes have made great strides in their taste and texture in recent times, though I still have yet to find one that is an identical replica of the real thing. The paste-type tomato that is often available in produce comes closer than some and is a welcome ingredient in sandwiches. But, it still lacks that backyard, sun-warmed sweetness and flavor.

We bested our previous ripe tomato record this year, lovingly picking the first red Early Girl

in late June. Admittedly, it had been coddled along in a protective Wall-O-Water plastic shelter, and hand watered against the drought which was already then making its ominous way into the season.

After enjoying those first two or three small tomatoes, however, we endured a few weeks delay until the regular tomato section of the garden began paying its way. In an effort to let more sunshine in through the tangle of stalks, I moved tomato vines around to better expose the fruits to the light and warmth.

What a mistake. The sunshine turned out to be that intense, 100-degree stuff, quickly burning sunspots on the sides of the tomatoes I had exposed. That game plan promptly went out the window, the rest of them have since been ripening under the light shade of foliage, just the way the stalks put 'em. In fact, until cooler weather moved in, I was making it a point to recover with stalks and foliage any

CLARION (Clarion Co.) — Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services Inc. has announced that its 43rd Annual Dairy Princess pageant will be held on Saturday evening, September 18 at the Sheraton Harrisburg-East. A milk punch reception will start at 5:30 p.m. followed by a banquet at 6:30 p.m. and the coronation.

Thirty-two county dairy princesses will compete for the

title of Pennsylvania dairy princess now held by Jennifer Dotterer of Clinton County. The newly selected princess and two alternates will reign for a period of one year from September 1999 to September 2000. During that time, they will represent the dairy farmers of Pennsylvania speaking out for its number one agricultural industry and all dairy products.

The pageant, which will be held on the Saturday evening preceding the annual All-American Dairy Week, will end two full days of activities and interviews for the contestants. Four judges, all from out-of-state, will select a Pennsylvania dairy princess and two alternates from seven finalists.

The Pennsylvania Dairy Princess program is supported by Pennsylvania dairy farmers through their various advertising and promotion agencies: American Dairy Association and Dairy Council Inc., American Dairy Association/Dairy Council-Middle Atlantic, American Dairy Association & Dairy Council Mideast, the Pennsylvania Dairy Promotion Program and Allied Milk Producers with contributions from other dairy related organizations and individuals. Again this year, as the result of a grant from Sire Power, Inc. and several anonymous individuals, the awards to the winners will be: \$1,200 to the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and \$600 to each of her two alternates.

In addition, two contestants will receive \$100 awards for outstanding dairy presentations designed for school children and, two others will receive \$100 each for the two best speeches designed for adult audiences. As in the past, there will also be two \$50 awards for compiling scrapbooks which chronicle dairy princess activities to date.

The contestants themselves will select the coveted "Miss Congeniality" award from among their own ranks.

For over 40 years the primary purpose of the dairy princess program in Pennsylvania is the promotion of the dairy industry and its products on the local grass roots level. Incentive awards will again be given to the counties whose last years' princess and her committee completed the incentive requirements.

In addition, an individual award of \$300 will be given to the young woman who stood out as the outstanding dairy promoter during her county reign. This award, "Tina Shultz Memorial Award" is given in memory and honor of the outstanding young lady, who in May 1986 succumbed to cancer, during her reign as Huntingdon County Dairy Princess.

PA Dairy Princess and Promotion Services announces that the Saturday morning presentation competition will be open to the public free of charge. It will run from 8:00 a.m. until 12 noon in the Sheraton Ballroom. Interested persons are invited and urged to attend.

Saturday evening, September 18, promises to be an exciting evening for 32 county contestants and their families as well as for our Pennsylvania Dairy Industry. Tickets for the event are \$20 per person and are available on a "first come" basis from Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services, Inc., 214 South Street, Box 640, Clarion, PA 16214. (814) 226-7470 or Fax (814) 226-8698. All tickets must be paid in advance and will be held for pick up at the door.

All friends of the dairy business are urged to attend and lend their support to these hard working young ambassadors.

SIMPLY SIZZLIN'

(Continued from Page B2)

STUFFED TOMATOES

- 4 hardcooked eggs
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons vinegar
- 1 tablespoons mayonnaise
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ¼ teaspoon mustard
- 1 tablespoon cream
- Hot pepper sauce, to taste
- Cut eggs in half lengthwise. Remove yolks and mash until smooth. Add other ingredients and mix well. Refill the whites and garnish with paprika or parsley. Add hot pepper sauce.
- Halve tomatoes and scoop out centers. Fill with egg mixture.

CHEESEBURGER BABIES

- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 8 dinner rolls or small hamburger buns
- Assorted cheeses and condiments
- Divide ground beef into eight equal portions, shape into patties, 3-inches in diameter. Place patties on grid over medium coals. Grill 6-7 minutes for medium or to desired doneness, turning once.
- To broil, arrange patties on rack of broiler pan so surface of meat is 3-4 inches from heat. Broil 4-6 minutes for medium or desired doneness, turning once.
- Noreen Rouse
Sullivan Co. Dairy Princess

tomatoes exposed to the sun in the process of picking.

While we have had more productive years with much larger tomatoes, this year's still taste absolutely wonderful. Perhaps they are like the sugary sweet peaches of the season, concentrating their flavor and taste into a smaller package.

So we pair these juicy, delicious orbs with meat, cheese, and dill pickles for hearty evening sandwiches, section them over our salads (we like a little salad with our tomatoes, not the other way around), toss them with Italian herbs and salad dressing, or just slice them and dust lightly with salt and pepper.

It doesn't get any better than that, foodwise.

While we treasure having our fresh, homegrown tomatoes, there are limits to just how far we will go in immersing ourselves on their nutritious deliciousness.

We have yet to get as carried away with tomatoes as some partygoers in Spain, who recently took part in a fiesta during which a reported more than 30,000 participants threw over 140 tons — tons! of tomatoes at one another in a giant food fight. Yuck!

But it sure would feel good to lob at least one fat, juicy one at the groundhog, which, in the last few days, has begun sampling bites out of the biggest, nicest tomatoes.

And I'll be sure to pick one of those that has a rotting sunspot on it.

At least, it won't be a total waste that way.

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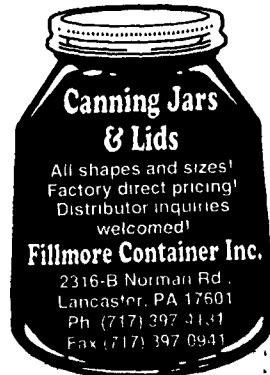
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