

Blair County Crowns New Dairy Princess

TIPTON (Blair Co.) — Diana Bigelow was crowned Blair County dairy princess on Saturday, May 20, on the stage at Bland's Park, Tipton. Her ready smile and enthusiasm for the dairy industry won the hearts of the judges and the audience during the pageant.

Diana will be assisted by two capable and talented alternates, Corinne Snare of Tyrone and Angela Sollenberger of Curryville. All three girls were crowned by the 1999 Blair County Dairy Princess Heather Hoover.

For the creative presentation portion of the pageant, Diana, the 16-year-old daughter of Richard and Cindy Bigelow, presented a speech entitled "Why Drink Milk?"

Contestants were given a choice to present either a three-minute speech or skit. Diana's speech outlined many of the nutritional reasons of choosing milk and real dairy products. Diana's delivery displayed her love and enthusiasm for the industry.

The final on-stage portion of the pageant was answering an impromptu question. Diana's question was "If you are selected as dairy princess what is one goal you wish to accomplish this year and how to go about doing so?"

Diana replied that her goal would be to reach more teenagers with the message of milk and dairy products. She stated that too many teens are making poor dietary choices and are robbing themselves of healthy futures. She continued that it would be her goal to educate teens about the nutritional value of milk over soda which has no nutritional value.

Alternate Corinne Snare is the 17-year-old daughter of Daniel

and Virginia Snare of Tyrone. Corinne's creative presentation was a speech about The Changing World of Dairy. She confidently spoke of the need for more consumer awareness of the dairy industry as the urban population grows and the agricultural population decreases. She also outlined some of the strengths of the dairy industry in the 21st century, including readily recognized advertising slogans like "got milk?" and the popular "Where's your moustache?" print ads.

Angela Sollenberger will also be assisting Diana this year as an alternate. Angela is the 17-year-old daughter of Gerald and Jean Sollenberger of Curryville. Angela entertained the audience and judges with her creative presentation a skit, geared towards elementary age students about Milk...it's in your future. For her skit, Angela was transformed into a fortune-telling gypsy, who read the futures of several children while reminding them of the importance of consuming their daily need of milk and dairy products. Angela brings to the team several years experience in dairy promotion, as a former dairy maid and alternate dairy princess.

Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening was Pennsylvania State Dairy Princess Lori Connelly of Pennsylvania Furnace, Centre County. Lori kept the evening moving along and introduced eight junior promoters for the year.

Serving as a dairy maid is Tracy Bigelow, the 14-year-old daughter of Richard and Cindy Bigelow, Williamsburg. Tracy is an eighth grader at Huntingdon Christian Academy. She is the vice president of the Blair County Baby Beef 4-H Club, involved



At the Blair County Dairy pageant, from left are Lori Connelly, PA Princess; Angela Sollenberger, Blair Co. Alternate; Heather Hoover, 1999 Blair Co. Dairy Princess; and Corinne Snare, Blair Co. Alternate. Seated is Diana Bigelow, Blair County Princess, Sam Hayes, Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture, is kneeling.

her in church youth group, and helps with the Williamsburg Farm Show. This will be Tracy's second year serving as a Blair County Dairy Maid.

Dairy misses, young ladies between the ages of 9-12, will assist the team primarily at summer promotions. The following girls were given their new dairy miss banners by outgoing dairy princess Heather Hoover. Emily Baker, 12-year-old daughter of James and Anita Baker of Martinsburg, Katy Bigelow, 10-year-old daughter of Randy and Twila Bigelow, Williamsburg, Kristy Bigelow, 9-year-old daughter of Randy and Twila Bigelow, Williamsburg, Courtney Huntsman, 12-year-old daughter of Randy and Karen Huntsman, Shasta Miller, 10-year-old daughter of Steve Clapper and Amy Miller, Tara Shollenberger, 10-year-old daughter of Earlyn and Lynette Sollenberger, Curryville, Jenna Smith, 11-year-old daughter of Max and Jeannie Smith, Martinsburg.

Serving judges for the evening were Vicky Daubert of Lewistown, Mifflin County, Paul Neer of Belleville, Mifflin County, and Brucette Metz of Allensville, Huntingdon County.

While the judges deliberated their selections, Miss Connelly introduced the Future Princesses between the ages of 4-8, and their escorts, the Future Farmers. Future princesses include Lindsay Knab, 6-year-old daughter of David and Genee Knab, Hollidaysburg, Desteny Ramsey, 7-year-old daughter of Brenda and Ellery Amick, East Freedom, Laura Ritchey, 4-year-old daughter of Tom and Cindy Ritchey, Martinsburg, and

Carrie Russell, 5-year-old daughter of Rusty and Kristin Russell, Martinsburg.

Another highlight of the evening was the recognition of one of Blair County's long-time dairy farm couple George and Mary Brennaman, who were recognized for their years of work on the family dairy farm in Williamsburg. Sons Kenneth and Louis now manage that operation, with assistance from their father, George. Heather Hoover presented Mr. and Mrs. Brennaman with a gift basket and flowers.

Before crowning the new Blair County Dairy Princess, Heather thanked the committee for their support and guidance throughout the year and each committee member was presented with a

long stem red rose.

Blair County dairy promotion chairperson, Twila Bigelow, presented outgoing Alternate Angela Sollenberger with a thank you gift for her work during the last year. She also presented Heather with a gift and \$1,000 scholarship made possible by contributions from area farmers and agri-business people. Heather received this scholarship because she completed the second level of incentive as set forth by the Pennsylvania Dairy Princess and Promotion Services, Inc. Heather visited more than 30 elementary classrooms, spoke to more than 25 non-farm and farm meetings, did over 25 store or mall promotions, and completed more than 30 radio or television spots and newspaper articles.

School Benefit Auction Is June 16-17

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — The Ephrata Mennonite School will hold its 16th annual benefit auction June 16-June 17.

The event begins Friday June 16 with a pig roast supper. The auction will begin at 6 p.m. with certificates sold at 7:30 p.m. and Winross trucks at 8 p.m.

Saturday begins with a breakfast buffet served 6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m. The auction begins at 9 a.m. Certificates from local businesses and restaurants will be sold at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Quilts and wall hangings will be sold at 1 p.m.

Items to be sold at noon include pedal tractors, a hammock, curio cabinet, Teeny

Beany babies. At 2 p.m., items with the theme "enjoy the outdoors" will include lawn furniture, gas grill, lawn and garden accessories, and various types of iron hooks.

Food including barbecue chicken and baked goods will be available all day. All proceeds benefit Christian education at Ephrata Mennonite School.



The school is located at 598 Stevens Rd. Ephrata. Rt. 272 N from Ephrata, turn left onto Schoeneck Rd. The school is located approximately one-half mile at the corner of Schoeneck and Stevens Roads.

For more information, call the school at (717) 738-4266.

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