



Little misses and escorts, from left front are: Malorie Coddington, Alexander Fox; Janna Shober, Lucas Calvert, Justin Ferko, Megan Brown, Tucker Cotter, Katelin Michael, Kristin Paul, Jennifer Martin, Lori Horning, Drew Cotter. Not pictured are Levi Friedline, Isaac Plummer and Keri Friedline.



Somerset County Dairy Princess 2000, Lacey Coleman, right, is shown with alternate Rebekah Fox.

## Somerset Dairy Princess 2000 Cracks Case Of Project Milk

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BERLIN (Somerset Co.) — "Project Milk" found 16-year-old Lacey Coleman examining all the clues she found on the farm to crack the mystery case. Once on the scent, however, each clue lead to another and before you knew it the agent had found all the answers.

On May 27, Lacey Coleman captured the title of Somerset County Dairy Princess 2000. The daughter of Phillip and LeeAnn Coleman, Berlin, was among four contestants in the 34th Annual Somerset County Dairy Princess Pageant, held at Berlin-Brothersvalley High School.

In evening gowns for their promenade, the young women also presented dairy skits and underwent questioning in the on-stage interviews by master of ceremonies, state representative, Robert Bastian.

Coleman leads the Somerset County Holstein Club as its president; shows and fits her own eight dairy cattle; is a 10-year member of the Milksquirts 4-H Club, and chapter sweetheart of the Berlin-Brothersvalley FFA.

Her travels have included a 2000 4-H Exchange Trip delegate to Mendocino County, California, and delegate to the 2000 National Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. She

participates in many more activities in school and church.

Coleman is the only daughter of four children. Her brothers are Matthew, 21; Adam, 18 and Wade, 11.

The alternate dairy princess, Rebekah Fox, 16, is Brad and Melissa Fox's daughter. She was the Miss Congeniality recipient. The Fox family resides near Brotherton.

Cristie Weaver, 16, and Jennifer Stahl, 17, rounded out the contestant roster. Weaver's parents, Carl and Brenda Weaver are from Windber. Stahl's parents, Richard H. and E. Ellen Stahl are from Somerset.

Judges for the affair, which

was followed by an ice cream social, were Karen Soliday, Johnstown; Mary Beth Lieb, Cambria County and John McElvaine, Westmoreland County.

Almost, but not quite everyone, was a door prize winner. Dairy maids Jessica Rose, Daniela Shriner, Elizabeth Ann Thomas, Joy Tressler, and Bethany Weimer hand-delivered them to recipients seated in the auditorium.

Little Miss participants were Megan Brown, Malorie Coddington, Keri Friedline, Lori Horning, Jennifer Martin, Katelin Michael, Kristen Paul, Janna Shober. Their escorts were Lucas Calvert, Drew Cotter, Tucker Cotter, Justin Ferko, Alex Fox,

Levi Friedline and Isaac Plummer.

Angie Shober, chairperson of the Somerset County Dairy Promotion Committee. Assisting are Jodi Flick, Amy Paul, Jenny Plummer, Christine Singo, Barbara Brant, Nina Ferko, Gloria Kaufman, Sylvia Mast, Helen Mishler, Dorothy Naugle and Sue Tressler.

The new dairy princess, who succeeds the retiring Susanna Thomas of Boswell, received \$200 from the Allied Milk Producers' Cooperative, Inc. In April 2001, Allied will give a second installment of \$300 if the princess, at that time, has met the obligations and requirements of dairy promotion.

## Retiring Somerset Dairy Princess Not Inclined To Waste Time

BOSWELL (Somerset Co.) — Susanna Thomas, who is retiring on June 30 as the 1999 Somerset County Dairy Princess, is not inclined to waste her time.

The 17-year-old, for instance, in the middle of the day, dashes home from the Greater Johnstown Career and Technology Center to meet an interviewer who, obviously is late.

Instead of impatience, the industrious young woman hastily begins chopping the carrots needed for a dish on the family dinner menu that evening.

In the last 12 months, she has had similar experiences making every minute count. Her parents, Mark and Doris Thomas, and sister, Elizabeth, 15, are supportive.

Maintaining responsibilities on the 154-acre Bowling Green Farm, where Susanna tends her own small Jersey herd and beef cattle, school, and being the dairy princess is a demanding commitment.

She also works at the North Fork Golf and Country Club in the capacity of a cook.

Susanna says it was the right time for her to be the dairy princess. As a junior, studying horticulture, floriculture and hydroponics, she found the educational work load manageable.

"This is a good age to be interested and relate to little kids,"

she observed. "When you are older, you are doing your own thing."

So, happily, Susanna is embracing the future where her concentration as a senior can be more self-focused. "My senior year is my year," she firmly announced.

Her former reserve was effectively banished through meeting many new people. "I was sort of shy and backward," she acknowledged, "but my people skills have grown immensely. My knowledge of the dairy industry has grown even more," she said, assessing herself.

It was equally notable to the dairy princess that her experiences were also helping others to grow and change.

An inner-city child, for instance, knew nothing about cows, milk or dairy products. So when Susanna presented the news that a cow can make 50-60 glasses of milk in a day, because she drinks the equivalent of a bathtub filled with water, eats hay, corn and other feed, the child was lost. He was unable to grasp beyond what his family found in a grocery store. Broadening his young mind was a moving exercise for the princess.

The lion's share of promotions found her at schools, supermarkets, malls, special events, and meetings. The spontaneity of children made school proms a

favorite with Susanna.

Most Somerset County kids have the basic understanding of farming, yet, when it came to the cows themselves, they were eager to hear more from Susanna.

Enlightening them about the cow breeds, for instance, and the cow's amazing, compartmentalized stomach. They were awed at the process of bovine digestion.

"When a cow eats food, she might chew a bit and swallow then bring it up later to finish chewing," she reported.

Children love to learn new things. They can more readily accept that milk is good for you no matter how old you are. Adults, of course, are harder to convince that drinking milk and eating dairy products is, by far, the best preventer of osteoporosis.

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"My most difficult challenge was talking to older people who were set in their ways," she said.

"Calcium is good for hair, skin, eyesight, heartbeat and helps muscles contract and relax. It is good for a lot of things," Susanna said.

The promoter stated that Vita-



Susanna Thomas has always worked with cows, but learned a lot of new facts as Somerset County Dairy Princess.

min D in milk is what helps bones absorb calcium, yet there are individuals who believe all they need to prevent osteoporosis are calcium pills.

She anticipates climbing back in the tractor driver's seat and

doing the field work she enjoys so much. In some ways the old routine will feel good again. Still, not for anything would Susanna exchange the wonderful experiences and unique growth emerging from the dairy princess responsibilities.