

PA. DAIRY PRINCESS Coronation



In addition to Melinda Wolfe, center, finalists selected from 33 contestants include from left, Samantha Barrett, Bradford County; Melissa Burdick, Potter County; Heidi Lynn Miller, Dauphin County; Emily Cloninger, Centre County; Lucinda Bray, Berks County; and Desarae Lyn Oshop, Lawrence County.

SUN Area Dairy Princess Rises To Cream Of The Crop

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Lancaster Farming Staff

HARRISBURG (Dauphin Co.) — Enthusiasm vibrated from the 35 county dairy princesses vying for the state crown at the 44th annual Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Coronation last Saturday at the Sheraton Inn, Harrisburg.

Although only one — Melinda Sue Wolfe — could walk away with the state title, the 35 contestants will carry their enthusiasm in promoting dairy products in their home counties.

Assisting Melinda in state promotion are First Alternate Heidi Linn Miller, Dauphin County, and Second Alternate Emily Kerr Cloninger, Centre County.

Melinda, the 19-year-old daughter of Dean and Rinda Wolfe, Milton, is from a 485-head dairy farm in Northumberland County. As SUN Area dairy princess, she represents not only her own county but also Snyder, Union, and Montour counties.

Her family's 300-acre Wolfe's Powerline Dairy has been in the family for three generations.

Melinda's heartwarming speech, "My American Hero" paid tribute to her father. She

took the audience behind the scenes of "her hero" who keeps things running smoothly despite not ever having a day that something doesn't go wrong on the farm.

"Why run ragged for so little return?" she asks. "Perhaps because farming is in his blood. Or that he sees blood, sweat, and blisters as battle wounds of living his lifelong dream.

Each evening, she said, her dad ignores his tired body to get one more thing done.

two award-winning skit presentations are selected during preliminary pageant festivities.

Desaria's speech centered on "the boots I'm wearing." A photograph that hangs on the wall of her parents' home in New Galilee shows her as a toddler wearing a pair of oversized work boots. She talked about what those boots represent and how the boots are a better fit today.

The boots represent the things she learned growing up on a farm.

“Men like my dad make me proud to say, ‘I’m a farmer’s daughter.’”

Melinda Wolfe
Pennsylvania Dairy Princess

"My greatest admiration is for my dad and others like him," she said.

For this reason, she declared the day Farmer Appreciation Day.

"Men like my dad make me proud to say, 'I'm a farmer's daughter,'" Melinda said.

In addition to Melinda's speech, that given by Lawrence County Dairy Princess Desaria Oshop was also cited as award-winning. The two speeches and

The things she learned working side by side with her mother in the milk parlor, how cow comfort, vaccination, and strong cows are needed. The necessity of maintaining sanitation without cutting corners to ensure milk quality, and the value of teamwork that results in producing millions of pounds of dairy products for families and schools.

"I still wear those boots, only they are a better fit today,"

Joining Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Melinda Sue Wolfe are dairy royalty from surrounding states. From left, Maryland Dairy Princess Jill Torene, New Jersey State Dairy Princess Nicki Goger, Melinda, and New York State Dairy Princess Marianne Moody.



Melinda Sue Wolfe, representing Northumberland, Snyder, Union, and Montour counties, not only clinched the state dairy princess title but also Miss Congeniality, top speech award, and honorable mention in scrapbook competition.

Desaria said. "I thank God that I can grow up on a dairy farm to produce a product that makes an amazing difference in so many lives."

Taking the two top awards in a skit presentation were Bradford County Dairy Princess Samantha Barrett and Berks County Dairy Princess Lucinda Bray.

Samantha's skit portrayed the Adventures of Milky Mouse and his obsession with dairy products. Filled with cute rhymes, lots of energy, and surprises, Samantha's skit revealed how Milky Mouse outwitted the gigantic mouse trap to attain his favorite cheese. His quick wits, strong bones, and intelligence were attributed to his consumption of dairy products.

In her presentation, Lucinda dressed as state trooper Cindy Bray of the dairy patrol inspecting typical lunches of school students.

"Good health is no accident. Eat healthy. Stay healthy," she said as she signed off.

After a rigorous two days of judging, seven finalists were selected to contend for the state crown.

In front of the audience, finalists needed to answer the impromptu question: What is the most important lesson you have learned that will help guide you in the future?



Lori Connelly bids farewell before crowning her successor.

Melinda, at the time a finalist, answered that she believes the most important lesson she has learned is how much she doesn't know, how much she has to learn, and how much she needs to live life to the fullest every day.

Lucinda Bray, Berks County dairy princess, answered that the most important thing she has earned is a good work ethic.

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Secretary of Agriculture Samuel Hayes poses one last time with the 1999-2000 Pennsylvania Royalty. From left, Lori Connelly, Rebecca Kilgore, and Amanda Gilkinson.

