



Operating Wolfe's Powerline Dairy are dad and sons, from left, Ernest, Dean, and Ray Wolfe.

### Three Generations Work Together On Northumberland Farm

(Continued from Page A1)

four counties. At the state pageant, Melinda was selected to represent the whole state.

She finds that her non-farming friends are supportive and receptive to her reign as dairy princess. "They often give me recipes and ideas," Mindy said.

Being a full-time college student and the state dairy princess is not without its perks but also has drawbacks. Mindy's grade point average has dropped a bit since she's taken on her new role.

"It's a sacrifice, but I think it is worth it," Mindy said of not making the dean's list the past semester and of reducing her workload to 12 credits this semester.

Mindy is pleased how receptive Bloomsburg University has been in accommodating her schedule. One of the requirements for dairy princesses is classroom presentations to elementary school students.

Because Mindy is pursuing childhood education, the school

has made arrangements for her to use school dairy promotions as credit toward an internship and toward independent studies. This requires Mindy to treat each promotion as a classroom teaching session.

She writes lesson plans and her presentations are evaluated by the classroom teachers. On occasion, her college adviser accompanies her to the presentations to evaluate her teaching and speaking presentations.

Mindy thrives on the opportunity to work with children. She said, "It is sad how little most children know about agriculture. But I love helping them understand where milk comes from and the importance of drinking milk."

Although the school district in which she lived did not offer an ag program or FFA, Mindy gained a lot of agriculture knowledge through the 4-H dairy club. She also found her involvement in high school drama club and participation in a speech contest sponsored by the local Elk's Club gave her a solid basis in speaking before

crowds — which she must often do as the state dairy princess.

"If I really believe in something, it's easy to talk," Mindy said. "Otherwise it sounds fake."

For that reason, Mindy's speeches have proven effective. At the state pageant, she was a presentation winner for her speech, which paid tribute to her father, who keeps things running smoothly on the farm despite never having a day where something doesn't go wrong.

"Why run ragged for so little return?" she asked of a farmer's quest to farm despite dwindling farm prices, weather havoc, and never-ending repairs.

"Perhaps because farming is in his blood or that he sees blood, sweat, and blisters as battle wounds of his lifetime dream," Mindy said of her dad, "who each evening ignores his tired body to get one more thing done around the farm."

"I have the greatest admiration for my dad. For this reason I would like to declare Farmer Appreciation Day, because men like my dad make me proud to say, 'I'm a farmer's daughter,'" Mindy said.

Unlike many of the dairy princesses who previously filled roles as dairy maids and dairy alternates, this is the first year Mindy has participated in dairy promotion.

"It's something my grandmother always wanted me to do, but the time didn't seem right until this year. Since we put up the new facility, I was more involved with the dairy end. Although I was busy with many activities, I thought if I don't try, I'll never know."

"The way my parents raised me, the lessons I learned, and the experience I gained through high school activities have all made me what I am today."

Melinda has filled leadership positions in many organizations such as Red Cross volunteer, an assistant coach of the Milton Little League, school tutor, Student Council, drama club, marching band, choir, and various 4-H clubs.

"Those responsibilities kept me accountable for what needs to be done," she said. Her involvement in so many different organizations also helped her with time management and goal setting.

When the Wolfe family planned their farm expansion, they were met with some opposition from a few concerned citizens who feared farming odors and devaluation of property values. But the concerns were alleviated by explaining the measures taken to reduce odors by installing a manure pit and explaining the expansion process.

Mindy's mother Rinda works as a school secretary but helps



This is the third generation on the farm. Back row is Mindy, Randy, and Deanna. Front, Taylor and Eric.



Mindy is a working princess, both on and off the farm.

with milking on weekends and summer months.

Growing up on the farm, Melinda said she learned hands-on experience, but her involvement in the dairy princess program has taught her more about the

dairy industry, new technologies, and the problems that face the dairy industry.

"I love what I'm doing. I have a great time doing it," Melinda said.

## Wayne County Dairy Day Feb. 16

HONESDALE (Wayne Co.) — All area dairy producers and their families are reminded that the 23rd Annual Wayne County Dairy Day has been set for Friday, Feb. 16, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. here at the Honesdale High School.

The annual dairy day will feature commercial exhibits by area agribusinesses, financial lenders, government agencies, farm equipment dealers, feed and nutrition businesses, dairy and milk cooperatives, and AI breeding cooperatives and others.

Dairy Day will also feature timely and valuable dairy related educational presentations by Penn State Cooperative Extension staff members, industry resource people, Penn State University extension specialists, and

others.

Some of the dairy related topics to be addressed at this year's dairy day include milk marketing, the consequences of insufficient dry matter in dairy rations, alternative forages to consider for dairy herds, and conservation programs for area dairy farms.

The milk, cheese, and ice cream bars will be another feature of this upcoming Wayne County Dairy Day as well as the noontime lunch provided to area dairy farm families courtesy of the exhibitors.

Some health screening, for area dairy farm families, will be offered by The Wayne Memorial Hospital, Wayne Health, and Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Wayne County dairy princess and dairy maids will also be at dairy day with milk and dairy product promotions and nutrition information.

Also, a series of door prizes will be awarded to lucky dairy farm participants.

To attend, call the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Office, (717) 253-5970, ext. 239.

**MILK**  
**AMERICA'S HEALTH KICK**



Pennsylvania Dairy Princess Melinda Wolfe is proud of the dairy industry and most enjoys teaching children that milk comes from cows, not supermarkets.